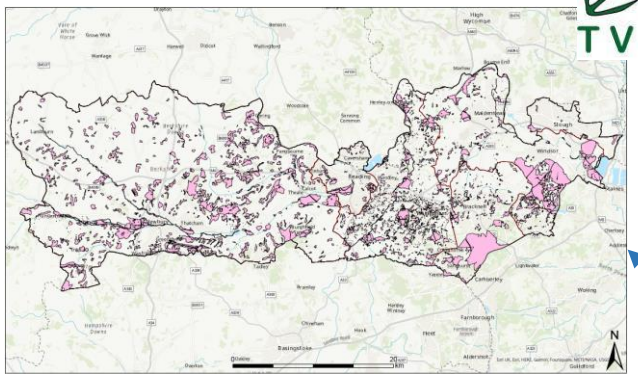
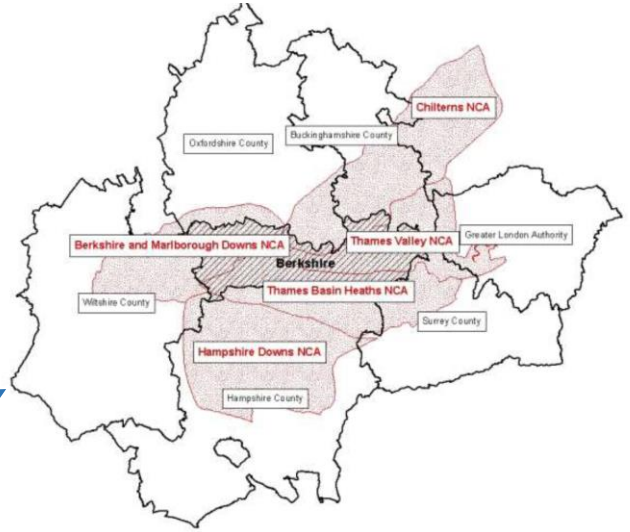
TVERC Autumn Conference 2024

Overall Update and Species Shortlisting

19.10.2024

The Berkshire Local Nature Recovery





Start

Step 1: Map **areas that are of particular importance** for biodiversity including national conservation sites, local nature reserves, local wildlife sites and irreplaceable habitats

Step 2: Map **areas where action for nature recovery has been taken** when LNRSs are reviewed and republished

Step 3: Describe the **strategy area** and its biodiversity and **opportunities for recovery**

Step 4: Agree LNRS **priorities** and identify **potential measures**

Step 5: Map **areas that could become of particular importance**

Local habitat map

Statement of biodiversity priorities

Local nature recovery strategy

?

1. Scoping and costing the planning process	**FRAMING**
2. Identifying and involving stakeholders	
3. Identifying the context for conservation areas	
4. Identifying conservation goals and objectives	
5. Collecting socioeconomic data	**SPATIAL CONSERVATION PRIORITISATION**
6. Collecting data on biodiversity and other natural features	
7. Setting conservation targets	
8. Reviewing target achievement in existing conservation areas	
9. Selecting additional conservation areas	
10. Applying conservation actions to selected areas	**IMPLEMENTATION**
11. Maintaining and monitoring established conservation areas	

Berkshire Nature Recovery Farmers, Landowners, Foresters and Land managers Workshop: You are invited!

*This event is specifically marketed to **Farmers, Landowners, Foresters and Land managers** located in **Berkshire**. For information on other Berkshire LNRS community events, sign up to our mailing list.*

Phase 1 (September-December 2023)

Initial engagement with stakeholders across Berkshire, through webinars, talks and a survey asking how people would like to engage.

Phase 2 (March- April 2024)

Second round of engagement with stakeholders: finding out priorities for nature recovery across Berkshire, and measures to achieve this. Engagement done through a survey and 10 workshops (3 for farmers and landowners and 6 for the wider public). An online map is live for people to pin point biodiversity sites and opportunities for nature recovery.

Phase 3 (June 2024)

A webinar to present a first look at the collaborative targets from responses to workshops and survey. We will show the process that we are using to translate your priorities into a map of Berkshire, and hear your thoughts.

Phase 4 (July to October)

Finalising the Priorities and Measures and creating the Opportunity Map. Setting targets for nature recovery, running the Marxan programme and reviewing results with stakeholder groups.

Phase 5 (November 24-May 25)

The sign off process. A formal public consultation to see the drafted map and documents including a list of priorities created for the county. You can tell us what you think before we finalise the strategy. Phase also includes sign off from other Supporting Authorities and internally within the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (the Responsible Authority).

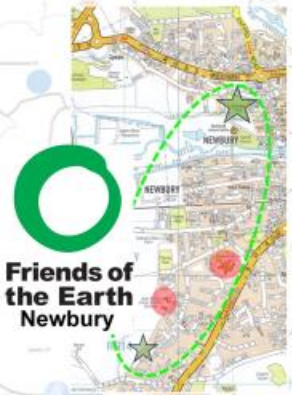
Finalisation of strategy (June 25)

Online publication of the finished Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Berkshire.

Extensive Engagement Process Complete

ENGAGEMENT WORKSHOPS IN ACTION

We heard about examples of Local Nature Recovery



Friends of the Earth Newbury

econet CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS

ark

Action for the River Kennet

Earley Environmental Group

Project Sponge WATER + PEOPLE + NATURE

Warfield Environment Group

BINFIELD ENVIRONMENT GROUP

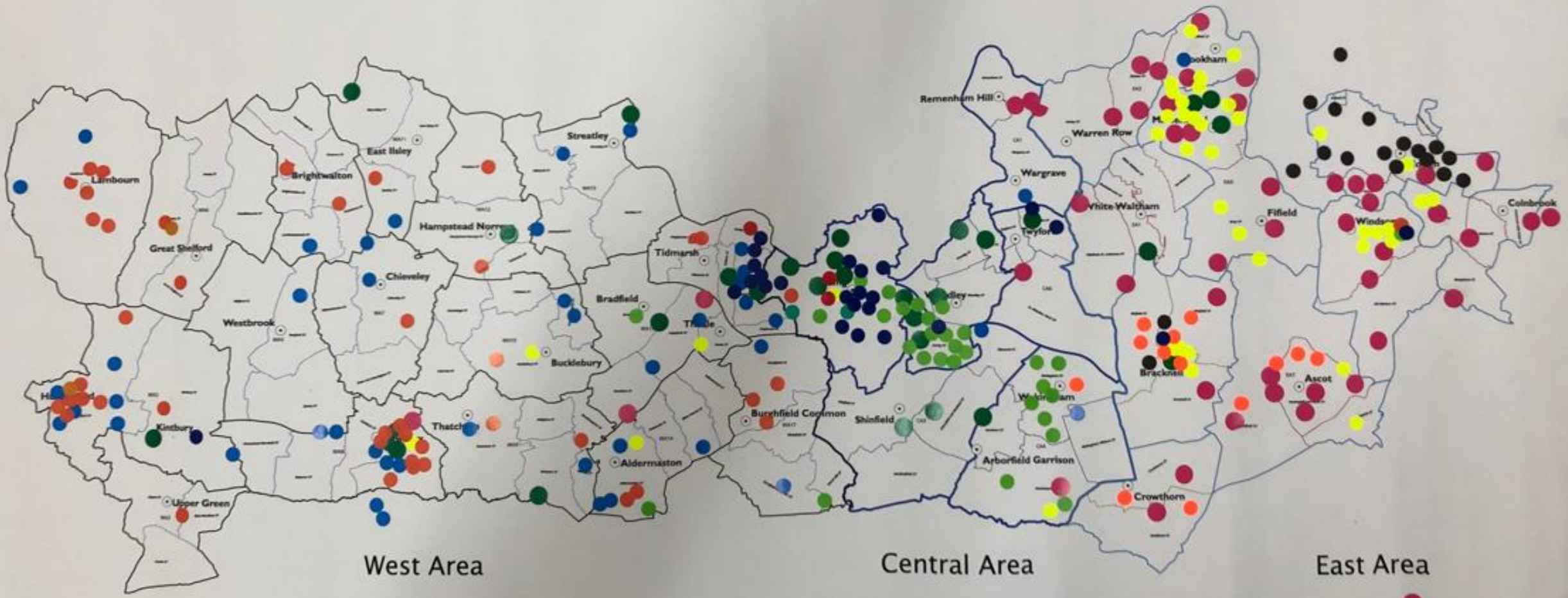
Wild Bracknell

WILD MAIDENHEAD

West Area

East Area

Local Natire Recovery Strategy Engagement Areas and Berkshire Parish Boundaries



BERKSHIRE LOCAL NATURE RECOVERY STRATEGY
Community stakeholder engagement across six local authority areas
WE CAME TOGETHER
BNRS SURVEY
SURVEYS
FARMERS AND LANDOWNERS
RESIDENT
GARDENER
EDUCATOR
CONSERVATIONIST
CAMPAIGNER
CIVIL SERVANT
WE CO-DEVELOPED A VISION
WE EXPLORED BARRIERS and Worries
WE PRIORITISED HABITATS AND SPECIES
How can we help?
RIVERS AND STREAMS
BIODIVERSE PARKLAND
BRING BACK BEAVERS
PLANT REEDBEDS
SCRUB AND HEDGEROWS
READING
SLOUGH
MANAGE ACCESS
CONSERVATION GRAZING
WOKINGHAM
WOODLANDS AND VETERAN TREES
BRACKNELL
REDUCE RIVER SEWAGE
URBAN ORCHARDS
LET FLOODPLAINS FLOOD
GRASSLAND (ACID & CHALK)
ROYAL BOROUGH OF WINDSOR AND MAIDENHEAD
WEST BERKSHIRE
FLOODPLAIN MEADOWS
ENGAGE and EDUCATE
EMPOWER COMMUNITIES
HEATHLAND
Natalie Campbell

List of Priorities and Potential Measures Complete

General Agricultural and Wider Countryside Habitat Grouping

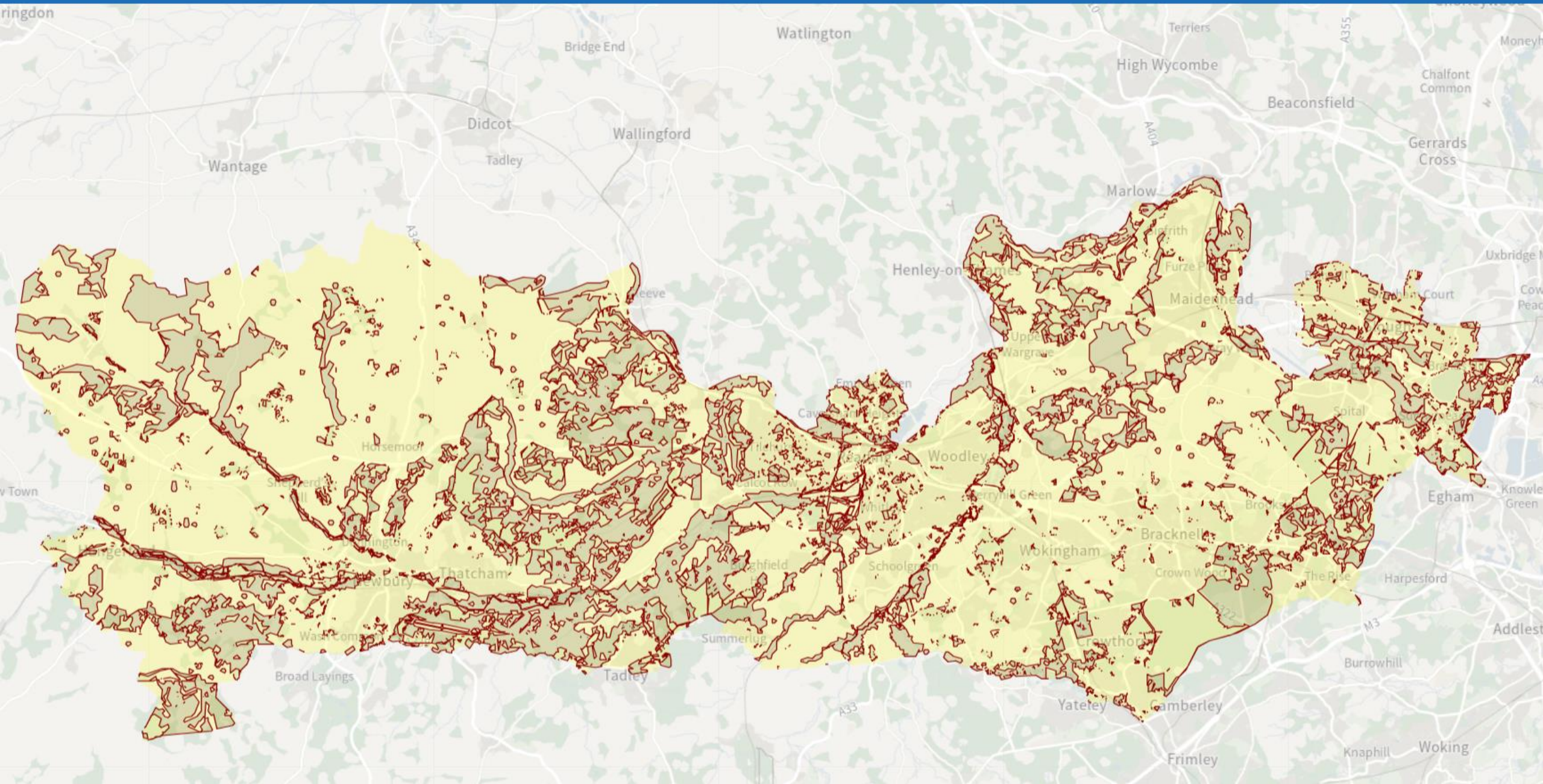
Note that the GAWC habitat grouping includes Field margins, hedgerows, grassland and traditional orchards. Scrub, veteran trees and ponds are found in this habitat grouping, however their measures are covered in other habitat groupings.

Wider environmental benefits: Carbon drawdown, Clean air, Clean water

Priority	Measure	Mapped?	
Improve the quality of general agriculture and the wider countryside	Encourage farmers to take appropriate conservation measures on field margins (e.g. sow appropriate native wildflowers, create beetle banks, leave margins uncultivated, stop spraying herbicides, pesticides, and fertiliser near field margins, etc).		
	Manage hedgerows in a wildlife-friendly manner, as per PTES guidance. Convert species poor hedgerow to species rich. Convert hedgerows without standards to hedgerows with standards, pollards and feathers.	Mapped	
	Plant new hedges and re-establish hedges on lines that historic maps or ground evidence show previously were hedgerow, particularly where it reconnects isolated relic trees. Avoid traditional open country landscapes. Extend hedgerows to connect fragmented habitats.	Mapped	

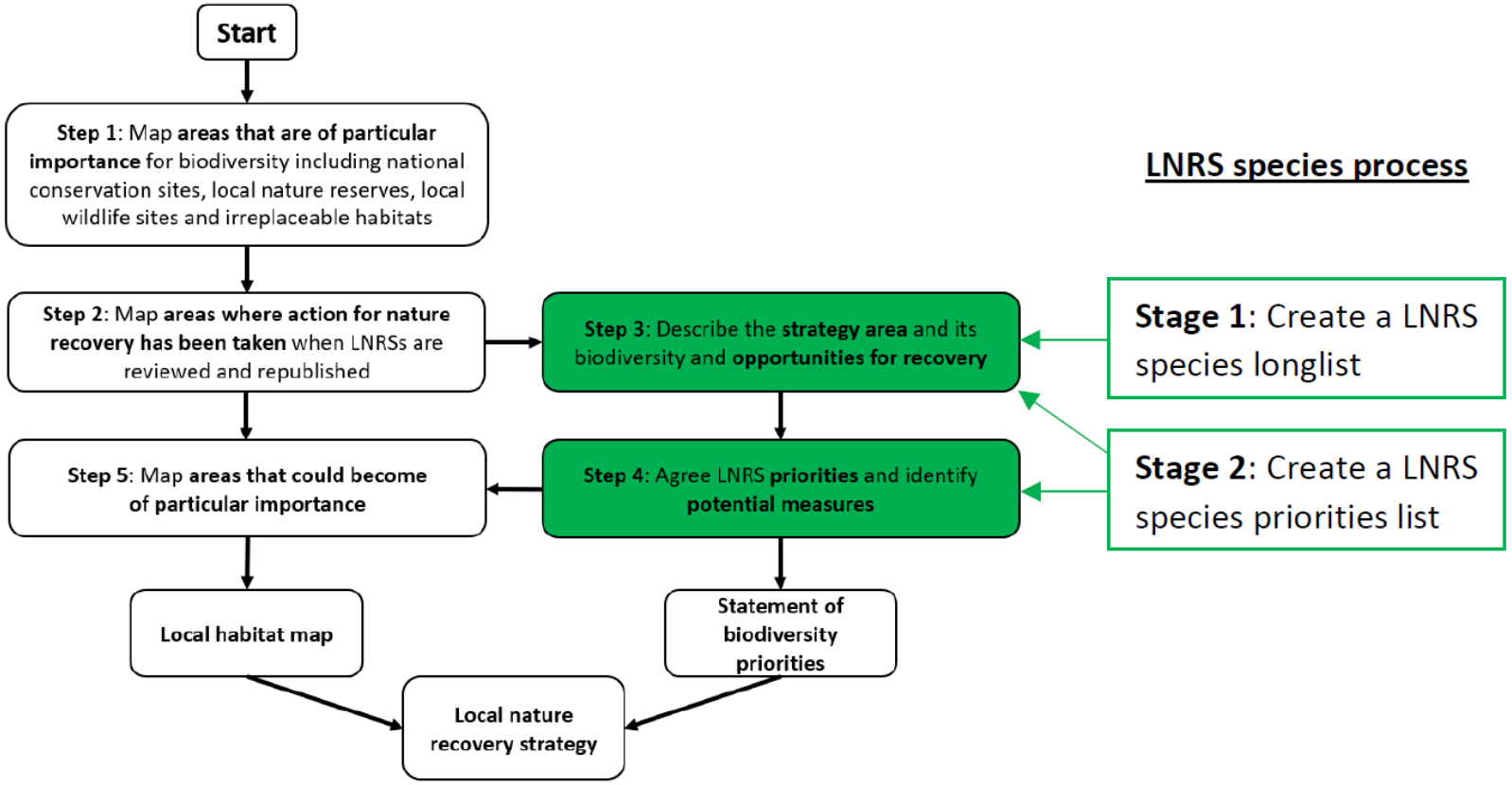
Local Habitat Map Complete

Berkshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy Map



The Species Priorities Shortlisting Process - Complete

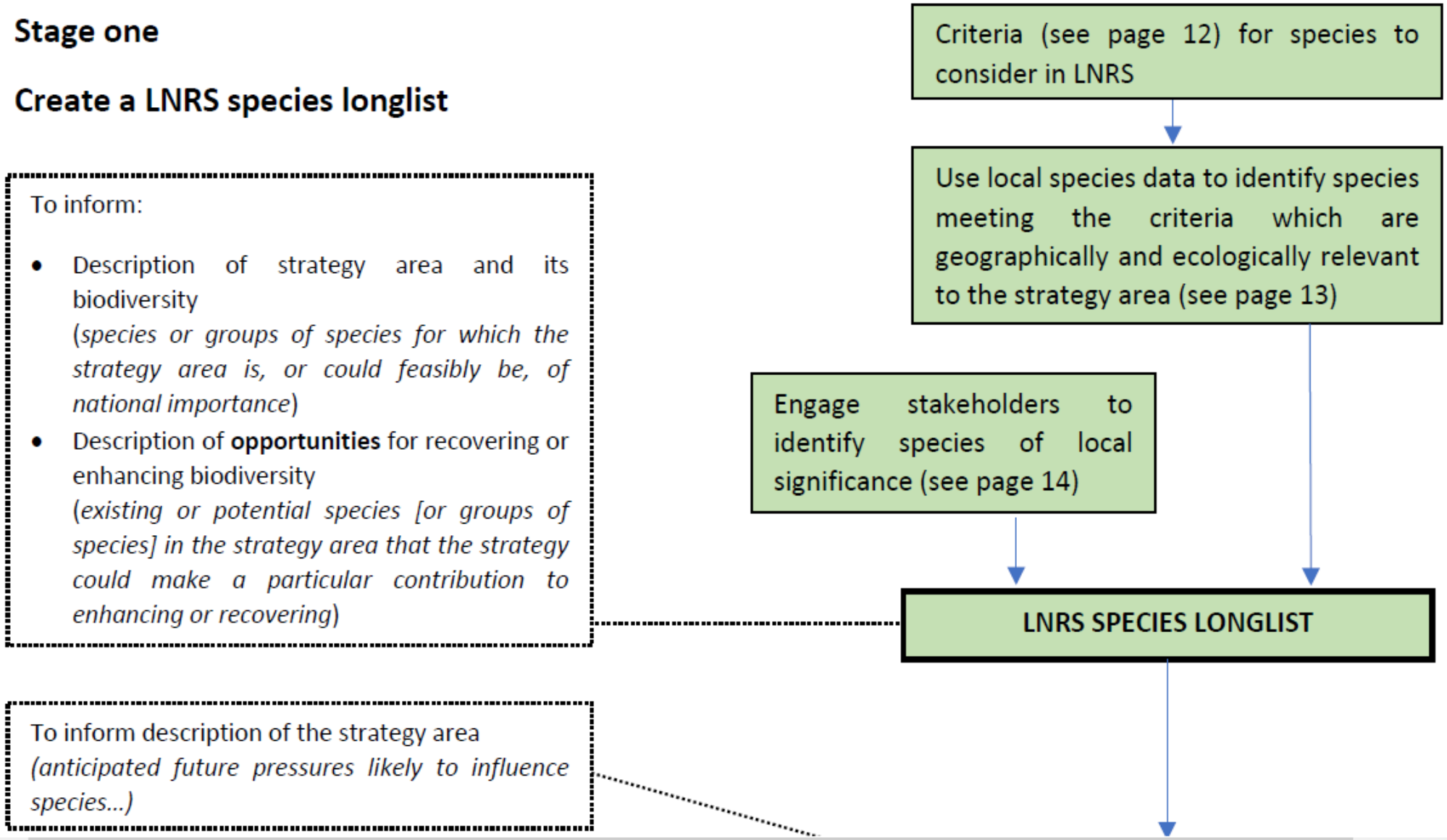
From Species Long List to Short List and measures



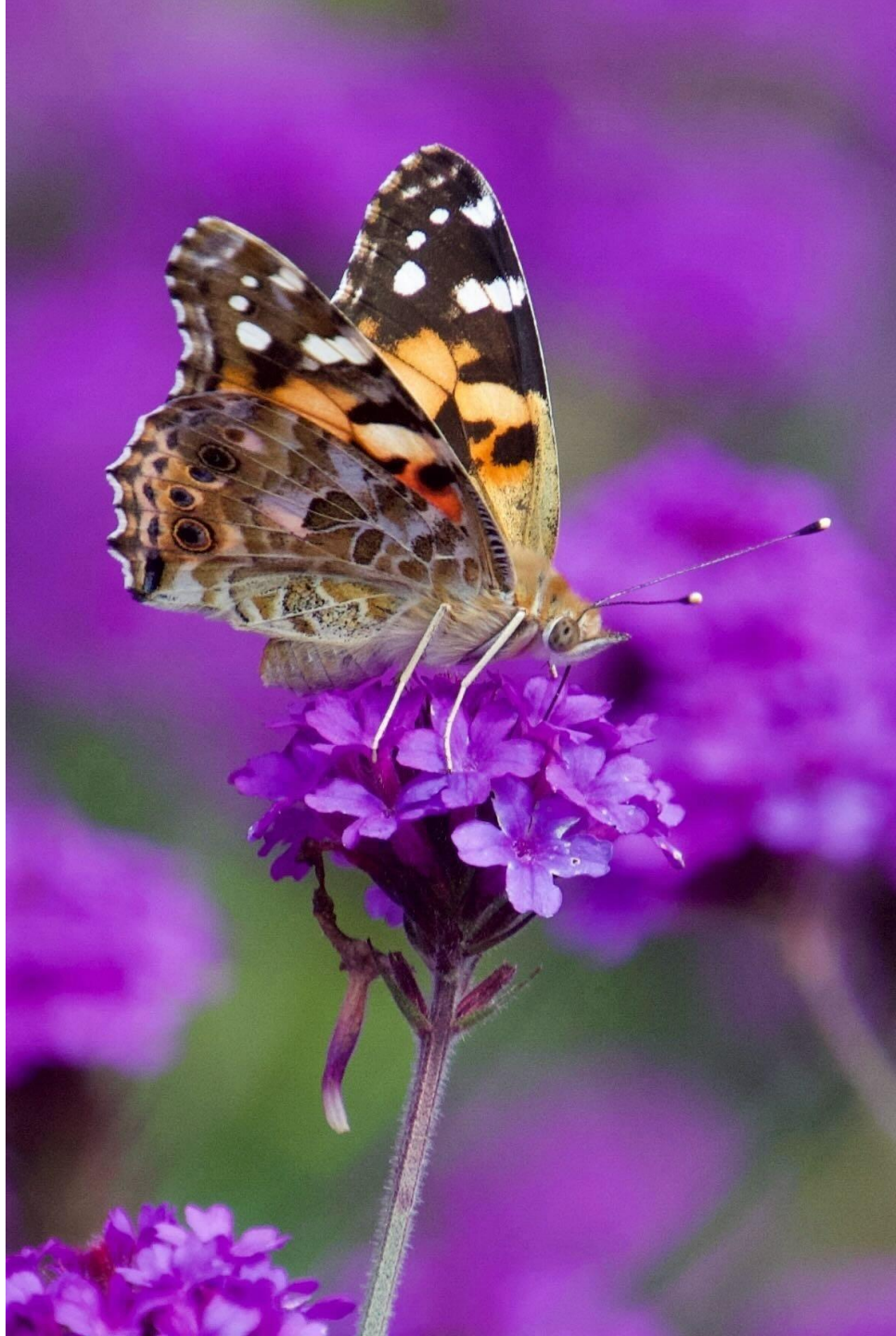
1.1 Process overview

Stage one

Create a LNRS species longlist



TVERC created an initial longlist



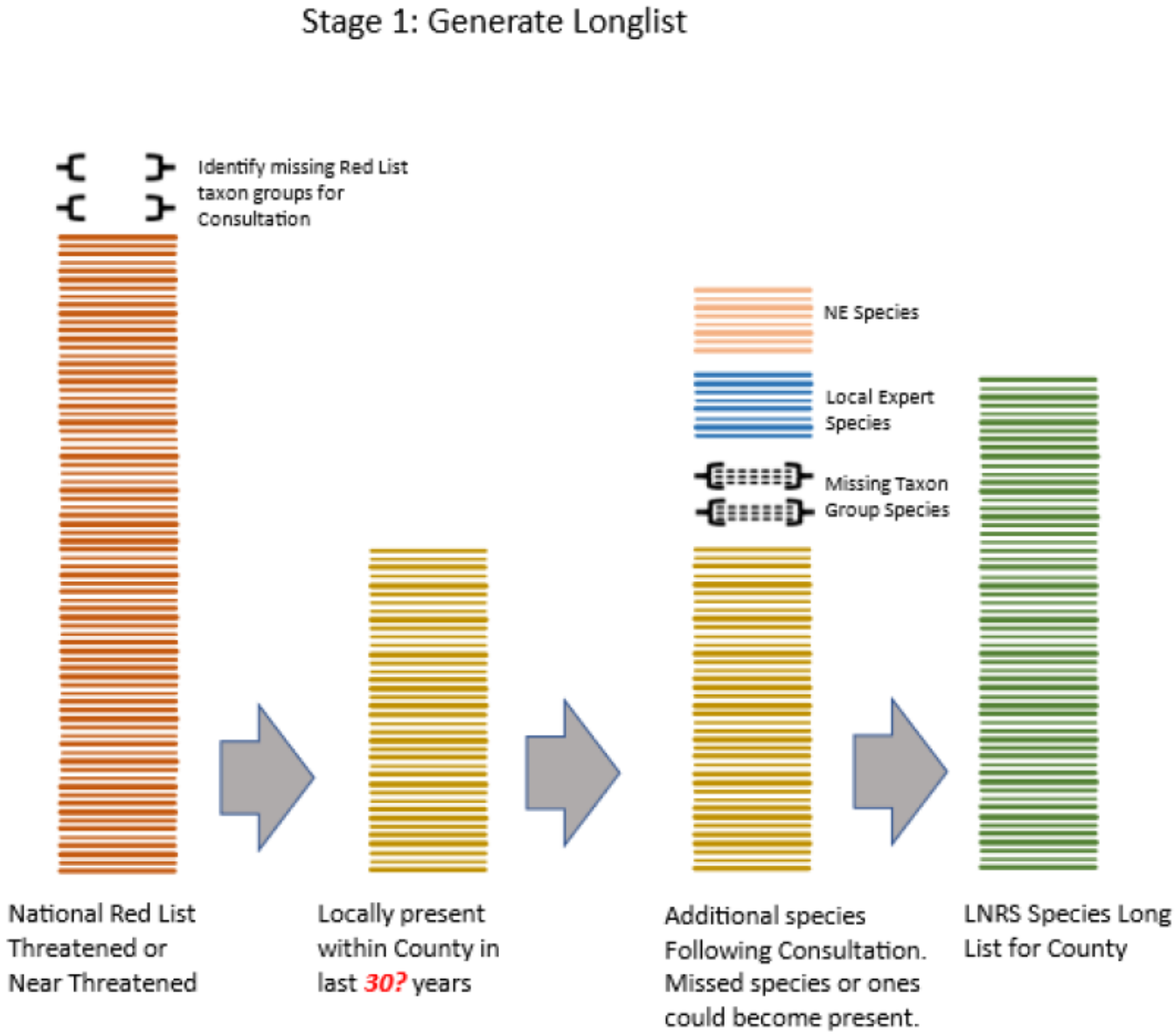


Figure.1 Stage 1: Generate Longlist

Reviewed by Berkshire species recording experts

The species list will help to shape which areas of the county the LNRS prioritises for nature recovery actions. Species specialists were asked to consider:

1. Should we keep each of these species on the list, or should any be removed?
2. Are there additional species on the National Red List, that although we do not have records, should be added as a priority species for Berkshire?
3. Are there additional species not Red Listed but of similar importance that should be included for Berkshire?

Guidance was provided on how to give feedback within the spreadsheet:

> "If there are any changes (removals/additions) you would like to suggest please fill the columns highlighted cream in your taxon sheet (I,J,K,L) of the relevant species, or include additions at the bottom of the list:
>
> - **Edit Date:** *Date of edit suggested*
> - **Edit Type:** *Type of edit suggested - addition, removal, no change.*
> - **Editor Details:** *Make a note of individuals that approved the change and when (ie. name(s), association(s) and specialism(s))*
> - **Edit Notes:** *Further discussion points/explanation for justification of your suggested edit if adding or removing a species.*
>
> If there are no changes to be made to a species please still complete an **Edit Date** (column I) and **Edit Type** with 'no change' (column J) in your taxon sheet.

The results of this review were published

CLUBMOSS

An initial 1 species were proposed for the LNRS Long List. Following specialist review 0 species were removed, and 0 species were added. TVERC considers that this taxon group has been sufficiently reviewed.

CONIFER

An initial 1 species were proposed for the LNRS Long List. Following attempted engagement this taxon group was not reviewed by a specialist, so remains unchanged.

CRUSTACEAN

An initial 1 species were proposed for the LNRS Long List. Following specialist review 0 species were removed, and 1 species was added. TVERC considers that this taxon group has been sufficiently reviewed.

FERN

An initial 3 species were proposed for the LNRS Long List. Following attempted engagement this taxon group was not reviewed by a specialist, so remains unchanged.

Example – the fungus longlist

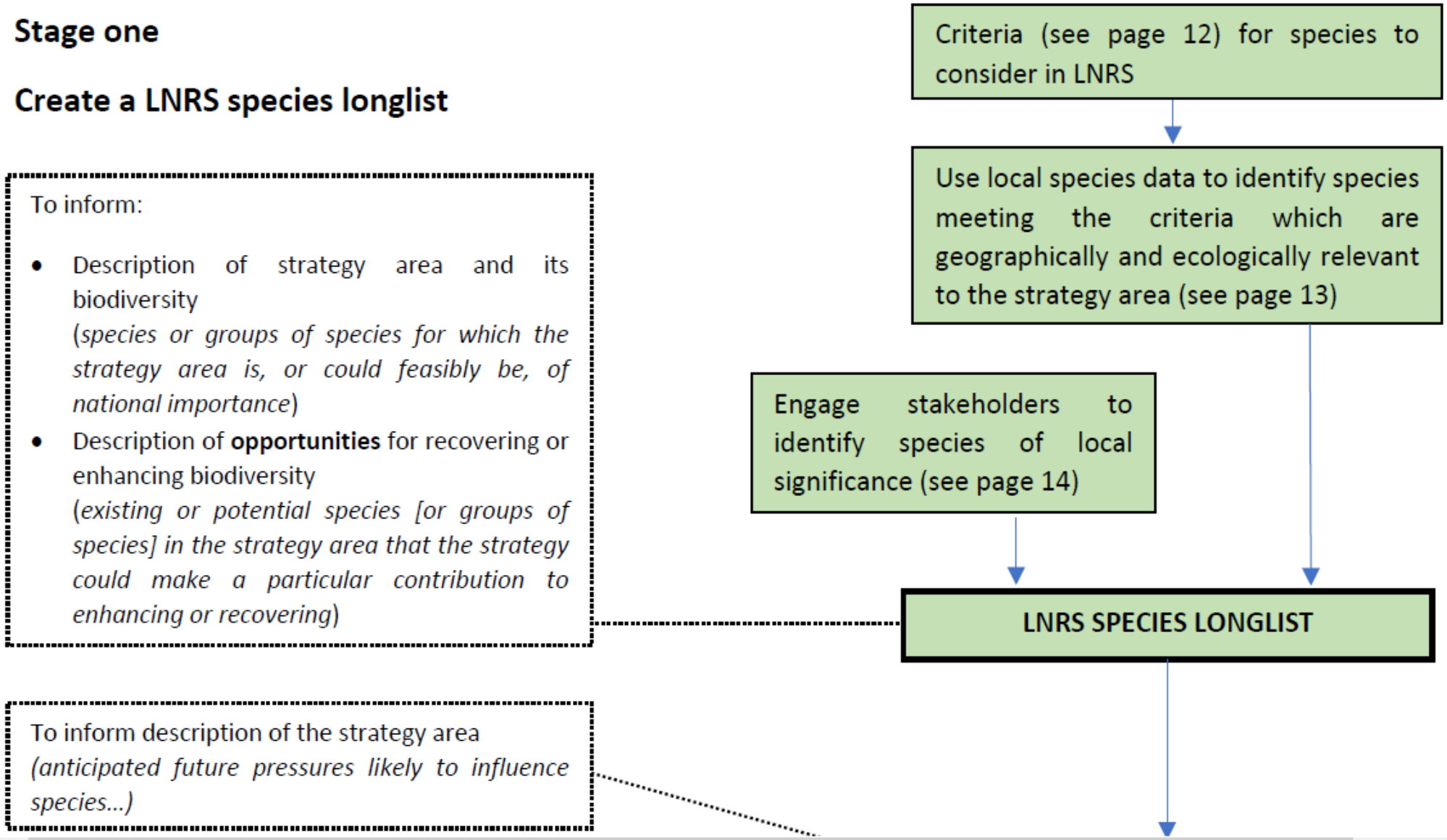
Taxon name	Common name	Global Red list status	LNRS Status	In Berks? (TVERC Data	Berkshire 30 Years	Berkshire Total30	Edit Date	Edit Type	Editor Details	Edit Notes
Boletus legaliae			Critical	Yes	Yes	1				
Boletus moravicus	Tawny Bolete		Critical	Yes						
Boletus rhodopurpureus	Oldrose Bolete		Critical	Yes	Yes	2				
Rubinoboletus rubinus			Critical	Yes						
Strobilomyces strobilaceus	Old Man of The Woods		Important	Yes	Yes	1				
Hygrocybe	waxcap fungi						12/12/2023	Addition	Des Sussex VC22 VCR for BDS	Suggest the waxcap fungi Hygrocybe are important to include as a group- as indicators of some important and ancient grasslands which may not necessarily be species-rich or priority habitats (ref vascular plants). A good group to stimulate more interest in surveying and protecting old unimproved grasslands (such as churchyards)

This was Stage 1 of the Species Shortlisting process – complete

1.1 Process overview

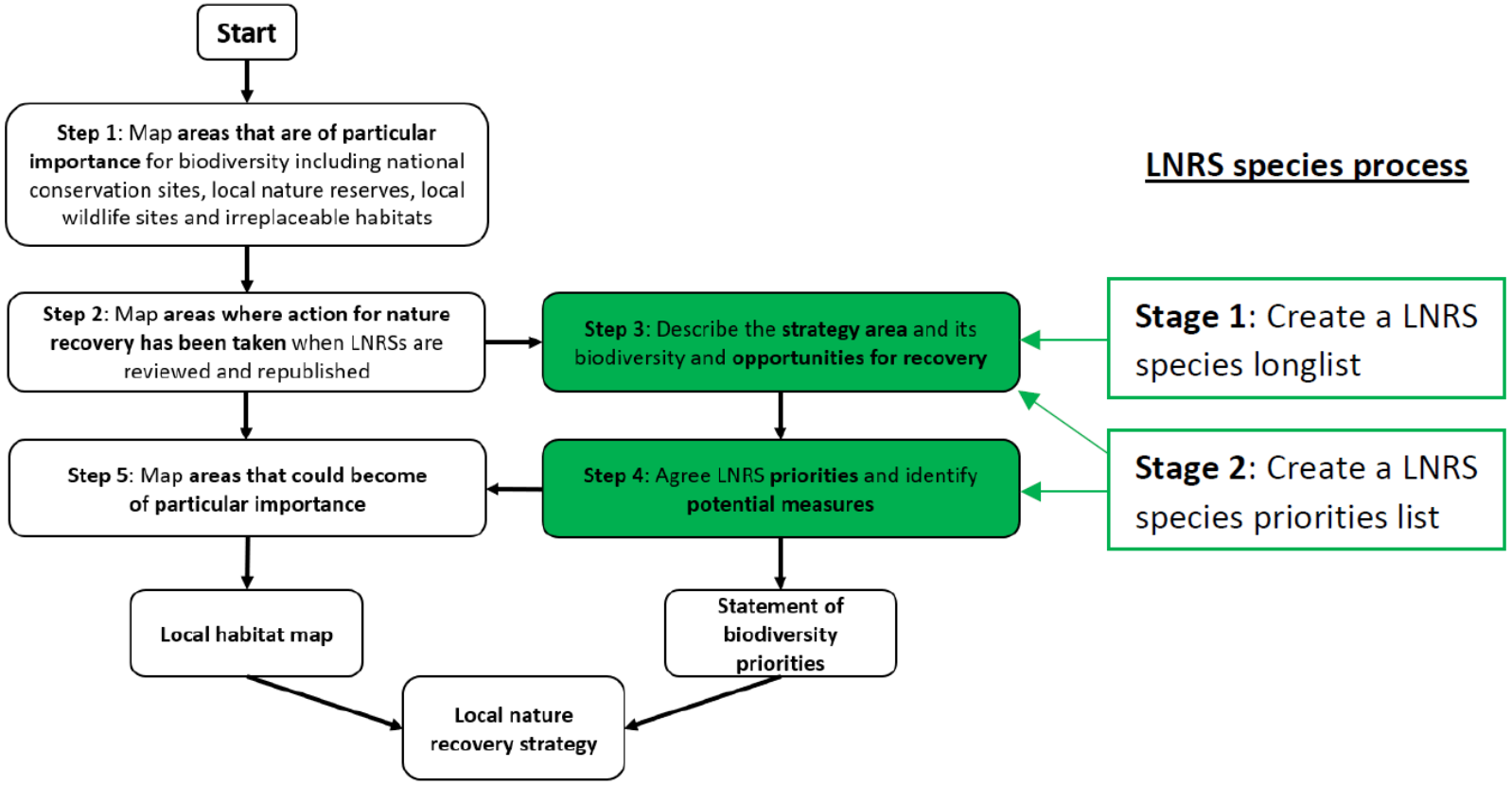
Stage one

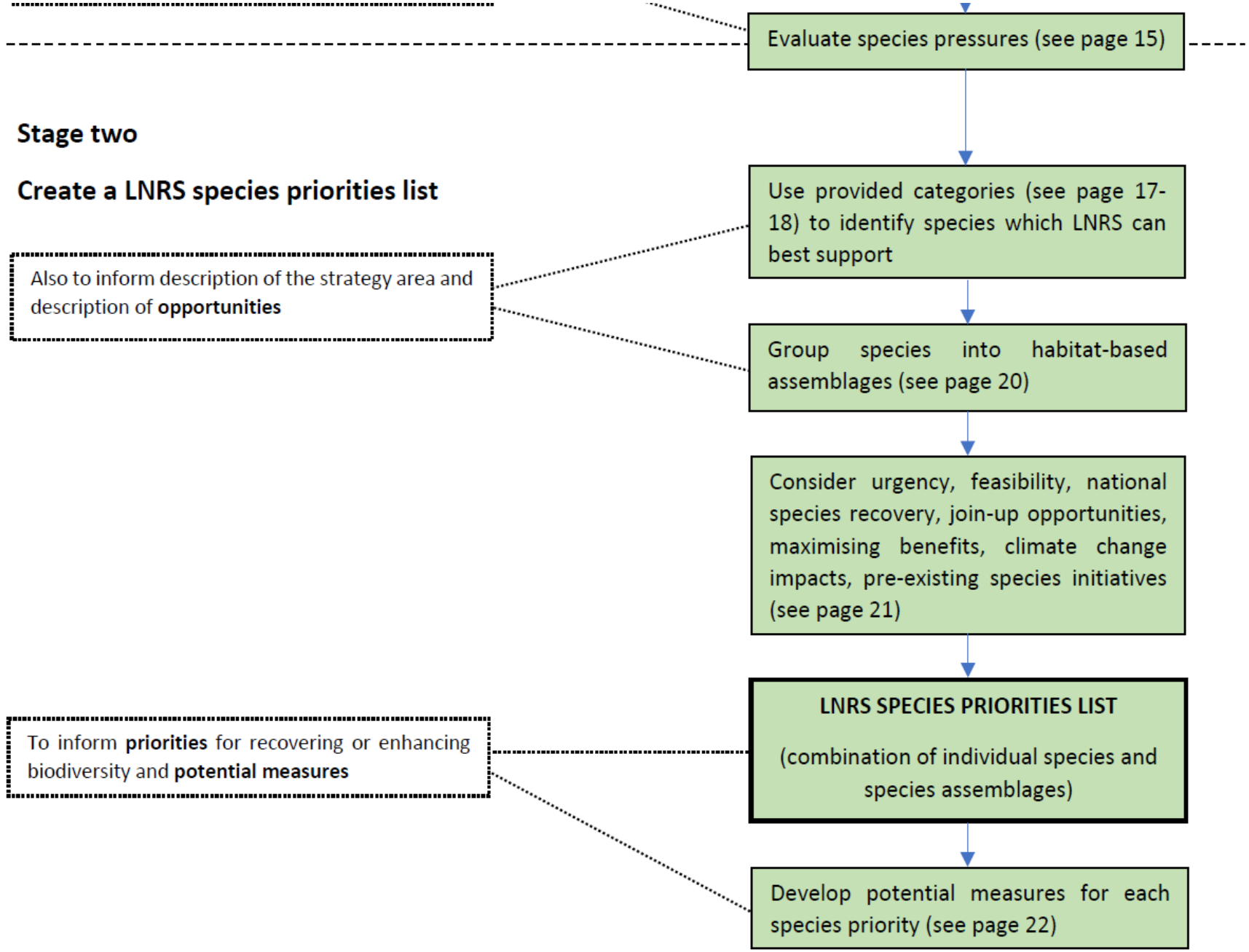
Create a LNRS species longlist



Stage 2

From Species Long List to Prioritisation




Evaluate species pressures (see page 15)
Stage two
Create a LNRS species priorities list
Use provided categories (see page 17-18) to identify species which LNRS can best support
Also to inform description of the strategy area and description of opportunities
Group species into habitat-based assemblages (see page 20)
Consider urgency, feasibility, national species recovery, join-up opportunities, maximising benefits, climate change impacts, pre-existing species initiatives (see page 21)
LNRS SPECIES PRIORITIES LIST
(combination of individual species and species assemblages)
To inform priorities for recovering or enhancing biodiversity and potential measures
Develop potential measures for each species priority (see page 22)

Categorising the Long List

- Category A
  Species that relate to general habitat measures

- Category B / C / D
  Species that relate to specific measures (beyond general habitat measures)

- Category E / F / G / H
  Species not to be considered further at this stage

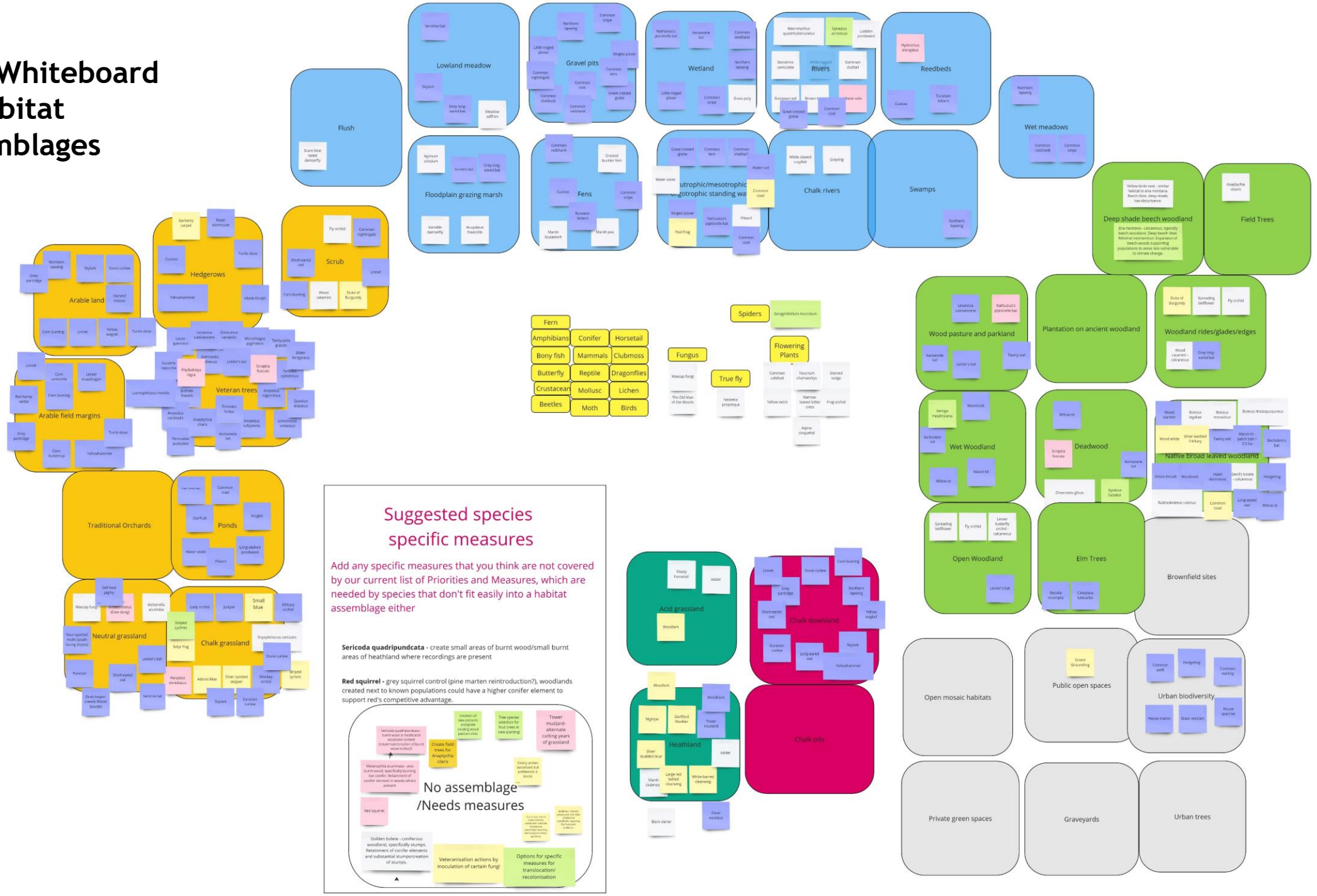
- Category A species can be grouped into habitat types
  - Used to inform desire for recovery/restoration of these habitats
  - Used to understand habitat type extent requirement

- Category B / C / D species
  - Add specific actions for certain habitat types when it comes to writing statement of biodiversity priorities
  - Used to identify specific locations for viable bespoke conservation actions

- Category E, F, G species
  - Are outside the scope of the LNRS

Assigning Habitat Assemblages

Miro Whiteboard of Habitat Assemblages



Constructing the Species Priority Shortlist

- Selected species assigned specific measures
- Selected a range of taxa to represent the county
- Utilised extra species guidance from a range of sources

A little of the Species Shortlist

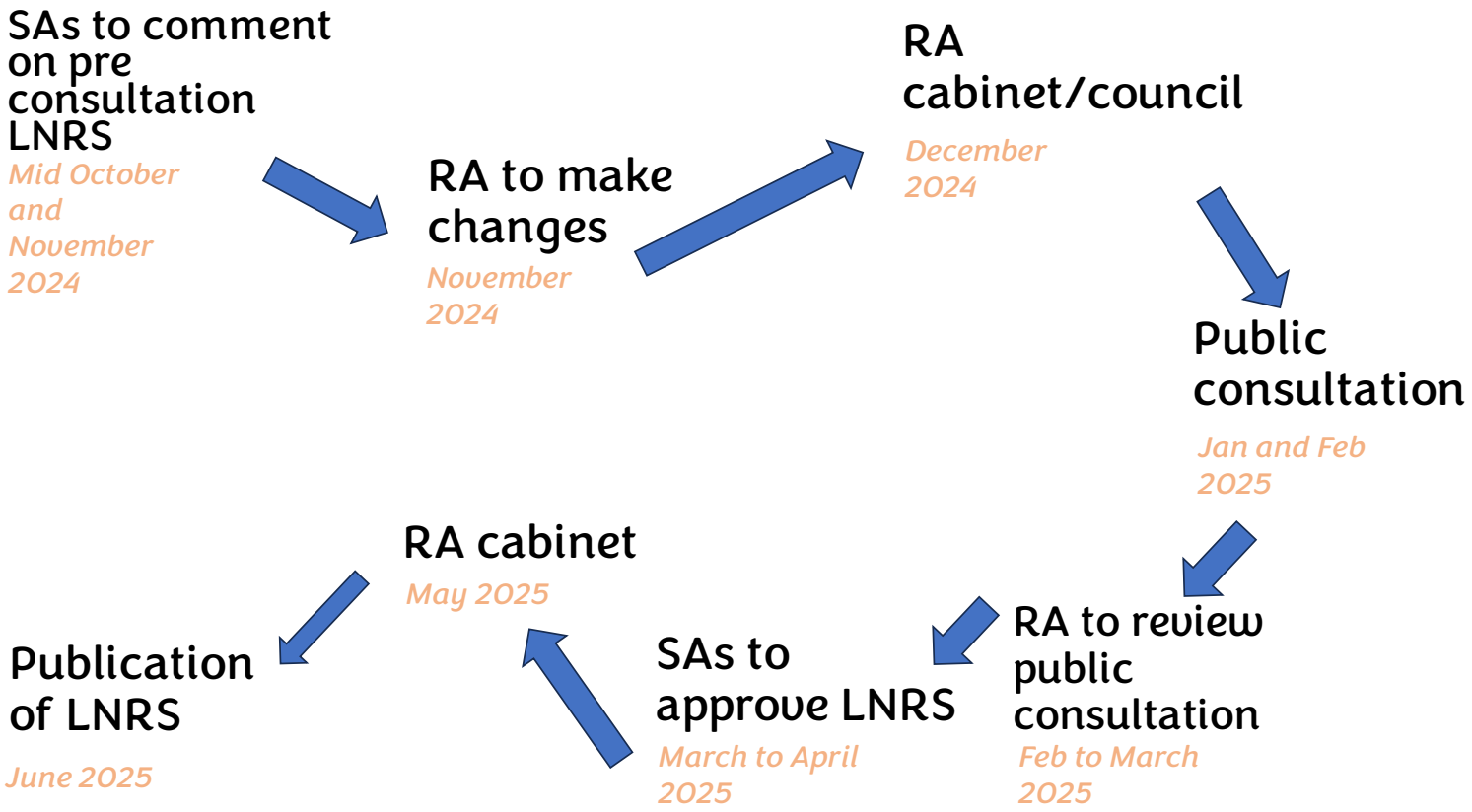
Species or species assemblage by Common Name (ordered A – Z)	Potential measure (the action needed help the relevant species to recover). Potential measures are in bold with additional detail about the species added below.	Particularly important locations for the action(s)	Which species are intended to benefit most from this measure?
Adder	Create edge habitat and scrub mosaic with topographical features.		Adder (Vipera berus)
Adonis blue butterfly	Close graze to maintain horseshoe vetch and bare ground.		Adonis blue (Lysandra bellargus)
Bats	Identify woodlands where Bechstein bats exist and roost and report sightings to the Environmental Records Centre. In these locations, do not destroy or remove trees or the woodland. Retain mature, dead, and dying standing trees, especially trees with cracks, loose bark, ivy, and holes (or hollows). Prioritise low intensity woodland management techniques instead of intensive management. Maintain dark and humid conditions around these trees and consider planting trees and hedgerows within 6 kilometres of known bat roosts. Near known bat roosts, create (or ensure the presence of) ponds, areas of open standing water, or waterlogged areas to encourage insect populations that bats feed on. Near bat roost locations (rural and/or urban), create (or allow the growth of) new mature trees and/or woodland to help create future mature trees that can support future bat populations.		Barbasetlle bat (Barbastella barbastellus), Bechstein bat (Myotis bechsteinii), Leisler's bat (Nyctalus leisleri), Nathusius' pipistrelle bat (Pipistrellus nathusii) Serotine bat (Eptesicus serotinus), Grey long eared bat
Beetles of Deadwood	Planning future generations of veteran trees, retainment of standing deadwood and stumps. Provide a matrix of flower resource in spring and summer.	Windsor Great Park	Scraptia fuscula, Phyllodrepa nigra, Gnorimus variablis, Melanophila acuminata,

Stage 2

Scopes and limits of the species recovery work

- Data not perfect
- Resources and timeframe isn’t perfect
- Collaborative strategy from experts and enthusiasts across Berkshire
- Not every species was reviewed in the time provided with the expertise available

The Sign Off Process



Thanks for your work on the Berkshire LNRS

How you can be still be involved

Engage with our Public Consultation

January -February 2025

Read and share the published strategy!

Sign up to our mailing list with QR code

Berkshire Nature Recovery
Making Space for Nature