

Consultation Response: Draft London Local Nature Recovery Strategy

submitted by: **Harrow Monitoring Group**

18 October 2025

Executive Summary

We welcome the Draft London Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) and its vision for restoring and protecting nature across the city. However, as a community group based in Harrow, we are concerned that the strategy does not sufficiently represent Harrow's unique natural environment or local priorities.

Harrow has a rich mix of parks, woodlands, commons, and waterways - including Bentley Priory, Stanmore Common, Harrow Weald Common, and the Yeading Brook corridor - that form vital parts of London's ecological network. Yet these are not clearly identified or prioritised within the LNRS.

We believe the success of the LNRS will depend on stronger local detail, clearer delivery support, and fairer access to nature for all communities. This response outlines key strengths, gaps, and recommendations to ensure the LNRS truly supports nature recovery in Harrow and beyond.

1. Our General View on the LNRS

1.1. We support the Mayor's ambition to make London greener, fairer, and more resilient through nature recovery. The LNRS is a vital step in this direction.

We particularly welcome:

- The commitment to connect habitats and create bigger and better green spaces.
- The focus on community involvement and access to nature.
- The link between biodiversity and climate resilience, which is crucial for outer London areas like Harrow.

- 1.2. However, the draft LNRS currently feels too broad and London-wide, with limited recognition of local priorities. Without borough-level clarity, delivery risks being uncoordinated and less effective.

2. Key Concerns and Gaps for Harrow

2.2. Lack of recognition for Harrow's key nature sites

Important local sites such as Bentley Priory Nature Reserve, Stanmore Country Park, Harrow Weald Common, Roxbourne Park, and the Yeading Brook corridor are barely mentioned.

These places are not only wildlife havens but also essential for flood management, public wellbeing, and climate resilience. They should be explicitly identified as priority areas within the LNRS.

2.3. Weak local delivery framework

The LNRS expects boroughs and communities to take action but does not explain how delivery will be funded or coordinated. Harrow Council and community groups need practical tools, partnerships, and financial support to make real progress.

2.4. Unequal access to nature

Some areas in Harrow — particularly Wealdstone and South Harrow — have very limited access to good quality green space. The LNRS should highlight spatial inequalities and direct projects and funding to where people most need nature's benefits.

2.5. Limited link with local planning and development

With increasing housing and regeneration, Harrow needs clearer guidance on how Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) can support local priorities. Developers should be encouraged to invest in habitat creation and enhancement that aligns with the LNRS.

2.6. Climate change and flood risk

Harrow faces ongoing flooding problems along the Yeading Brook and Roxbourne Brook. The LNRS should prioritise natural flood management and watercourse restoration as key actions for both biodiversity and community resilience.

3. Conclusion

We fully support the ambition behind the LNRS. But to be effective, it must feel real and relevant to local communities.

For Harrow, this means:

- Recognising and protecting our local nature treasures.
- Supporting boroughs and community groups to deliver change.
- Making sure everyone — especially those with least access to green space — benefits from a healthier, wilder environment.

We urge the Greater London Authority to strengthen the Harrow focus within the final LNRS and to work with local partners to make the vision for nature recovery a reality on the ground.

Husain Akhtar

Coordinator

[Harrow Monitoring Group](#)

[email](#)