



Yorkshire
Wildlife Trust

The State of Nature in Yorkshire

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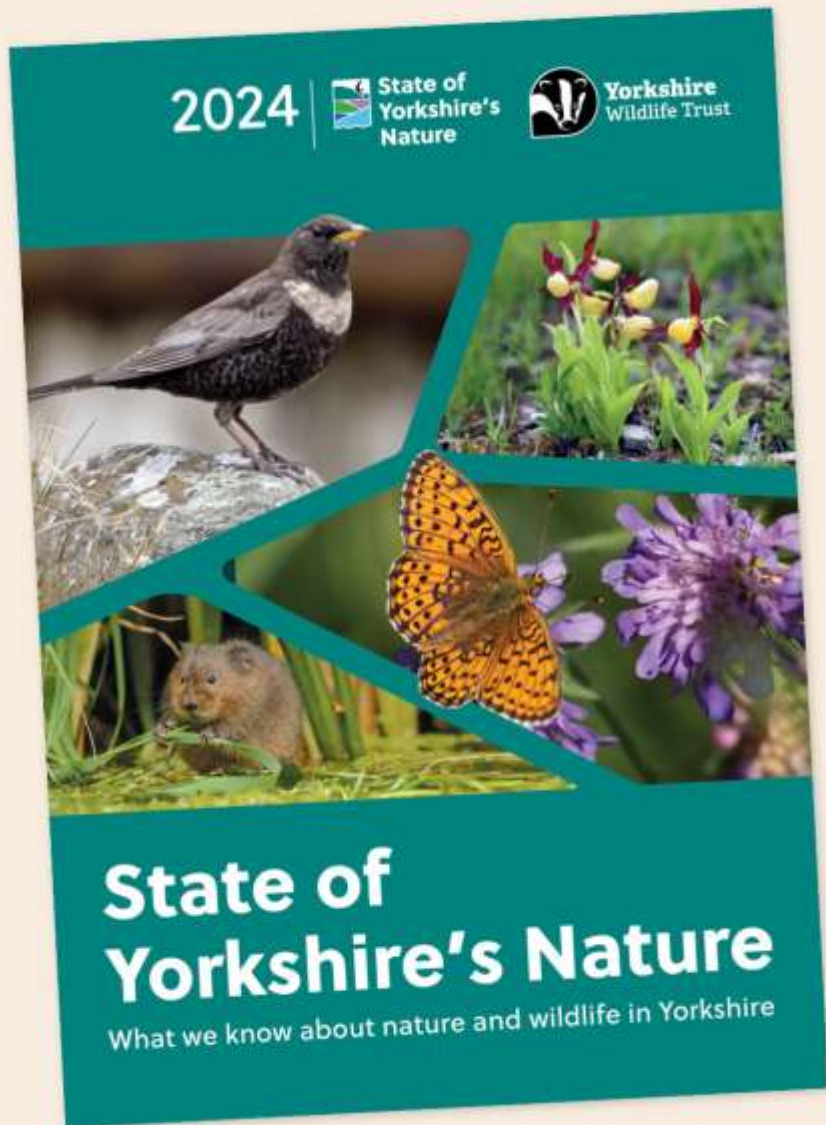
ywt.org.uk

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust is the only charity
entirely dedicated to conserving, protecting and
enhancing Yorkshire's wildlife and wild places



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State of Yorkshire's Nature



2. However, Yorkshire's wildlife is under threat ...



Nearly 2,000 species may have disappeared from Yorkshire over the last 200 years. A further 3,000 are at risk of extinction.



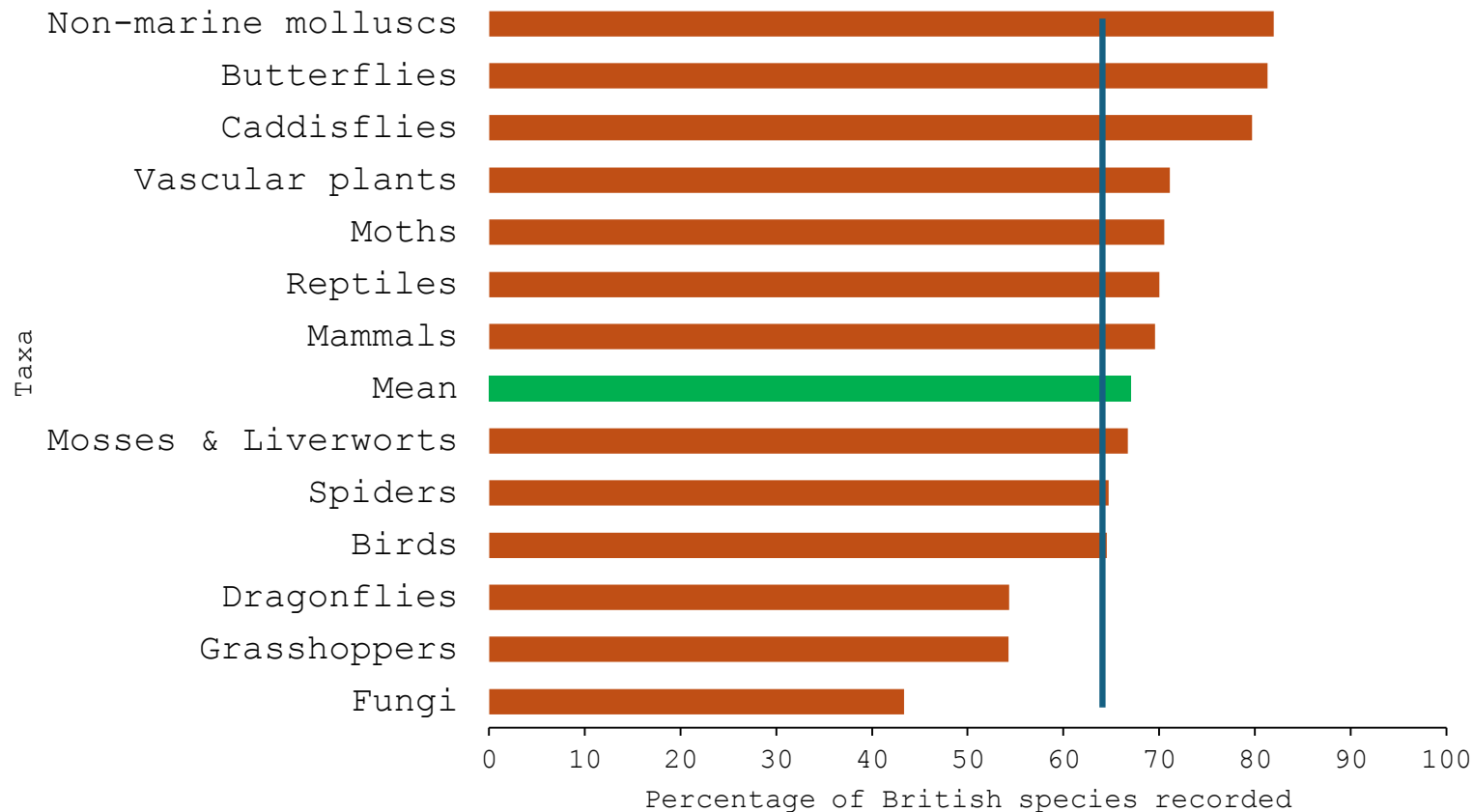
Species continue to decline – nearly 1 in 5 species have declined by more than 25% in the last 20-30 years.



Biodiversity is diminishing – common species are increasing while rare species are disappearing.

Yorkshire: how many species?

- Still a rich county – for most groups around $\frac{2}{3}$ of all British species are found in Yorkshire



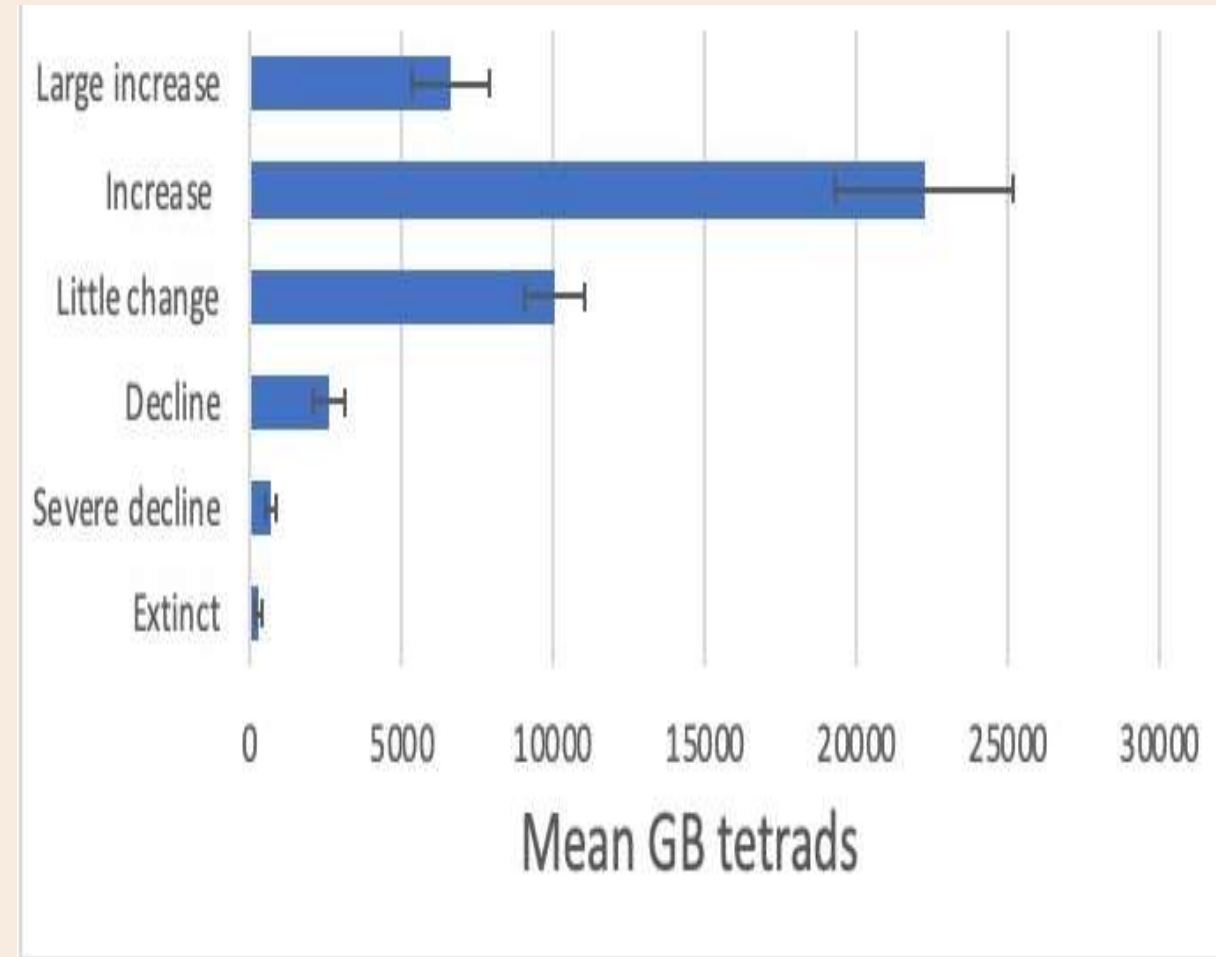
- There are ~70000 non-microbial species in Britain (NHM)
- Estimate is >45000 in Yorkshire

Nature in flux in

Yorkshire

- 18% of species are declining by at least 25%
 - 1 in 4 plants
 - 1 in 6 breeding birds
- But at least as many species increasing as declining
- No overall change in total species
- Declining species are rarer nationally than increasing species

Plant dynamics



Yorkshire is a stronghold for many species

- Yorkshire is 7% of Britain and 12% of England
- Species with >14% of GB or >24% of English distribution: **Yorkshire Stronghold Species (YSS)**
- Among birds, plants and moths we have 129 YSS (7.3%)
- Extrapolating to all groups: ~3000 stronghold species in Yorkshire
- We have particular responsibility for YSS



Tree Sparrow:
35% BR, 45%
EN

Photo: Richard Willison



Thistle
Broomrape: 100%

Yorkshire Species of Concern

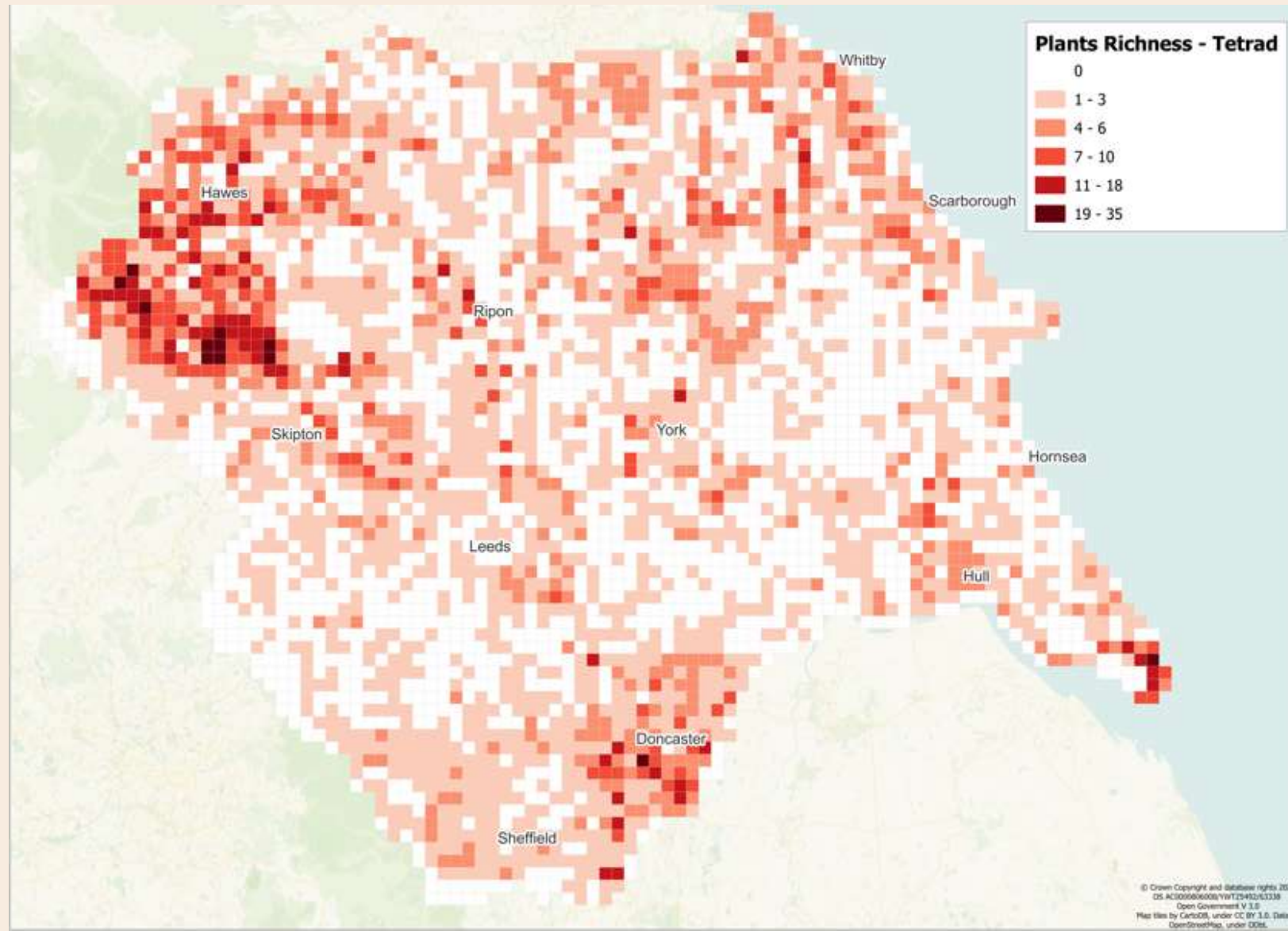
- Index to assess status objectively
- Uses 4 criteria
 - Rarity in Yorkshire
 - National threat status
 - Dynamics (extent of decline)
 - Yorkshire stronghold status
- Enables prioritisation
- Use for determining conservation policies
- Baseline for measuring



Highest YSC index for birds is Willow Tit (with Tree Sparrow); for plants, Lady's Slipper Orchid; for moths, Dark Bordered Beauty

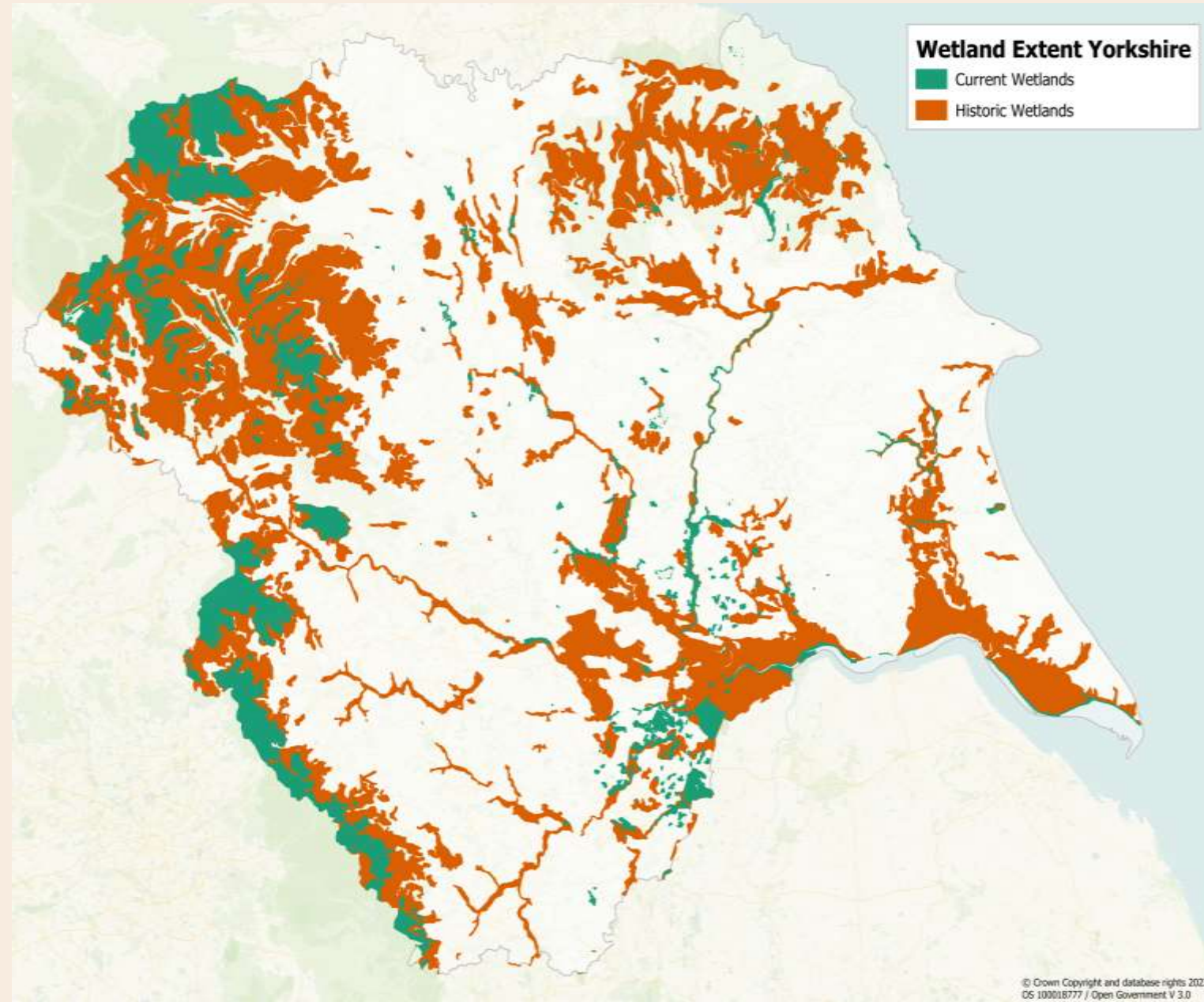
Where are the hotspots?

Coincidence map
of the tetrad (2 x 2
km) distribution of
Yorkshire plant
species of concern
(YSC)



What we have lost: wetlands

- Over 80% of our wetlands have been drained
- Mostly converted to agriculture – but often low grade land
- Large loss of





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More – increase the overall extent of land and water dedicated to nature conservation. E.g. Create arable margins and more urban green spaces benefiting both nature and people

Better – improve the quality of existing habitats through better management and restoration. E.g. Improved management of woodlands and re-naturalising rivers, improving water quality, removing artificial barriers

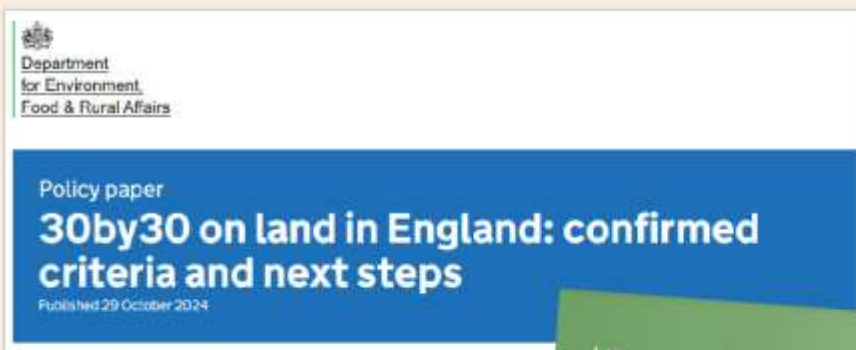
Joined – create connections on land and in water, allowing for wildlife movement and genetic exchange through corridors and stepping stones. E.g. Create and restore hedgerows and manage road verges to increase biodiversity

Bigger – create larger, more contiguous areas of habitat, to reduce fragmentation. E.g. Increase the extent of woodlands and creating buffer zones around sensitive sites

Lawton principles – More, Bigger, Better and Joined

30 by 30 for Yorkshire

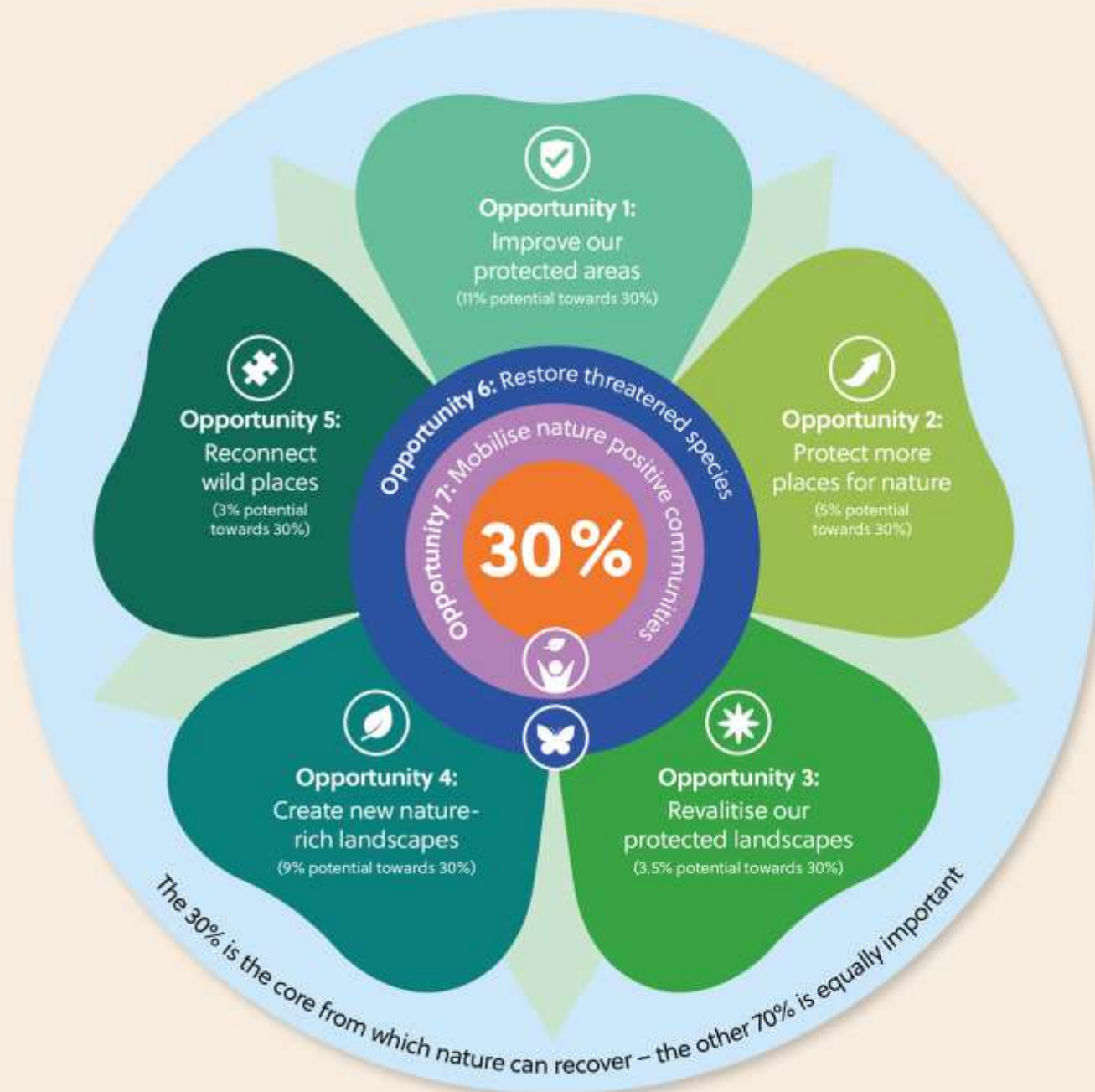
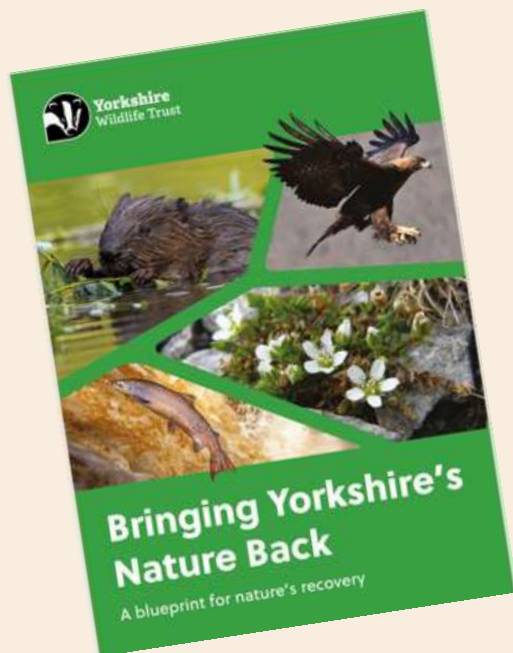
what would it look like?





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7 Opportunities for nature's recovery in Yorkshire





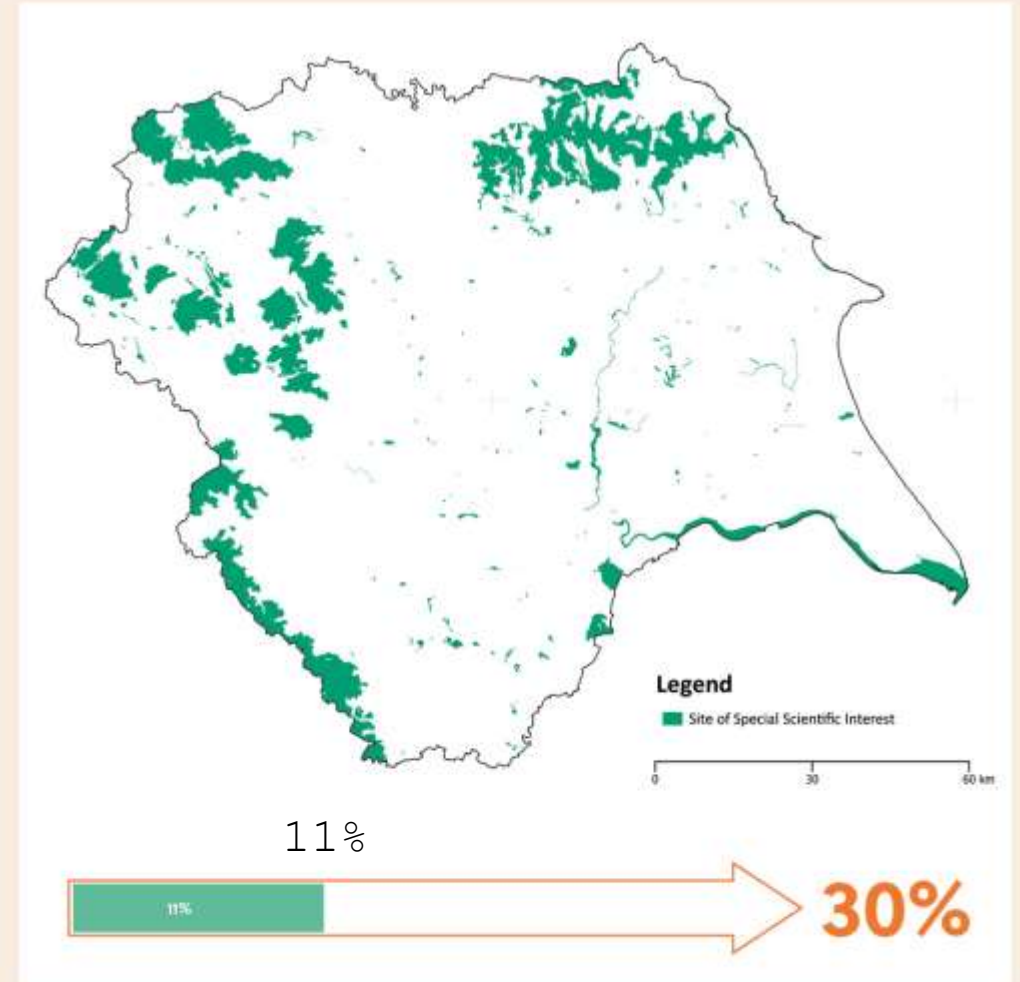
The Protected Area Network

The backbone of a resilient nature network

Opportunity 1: Improve our protected areas

Achieved through:

- *improved SSSI monitoring*
- *more SSSIs in good condition*
- *designating more SSSIs*
- *other designations (e.g. NNRs)*





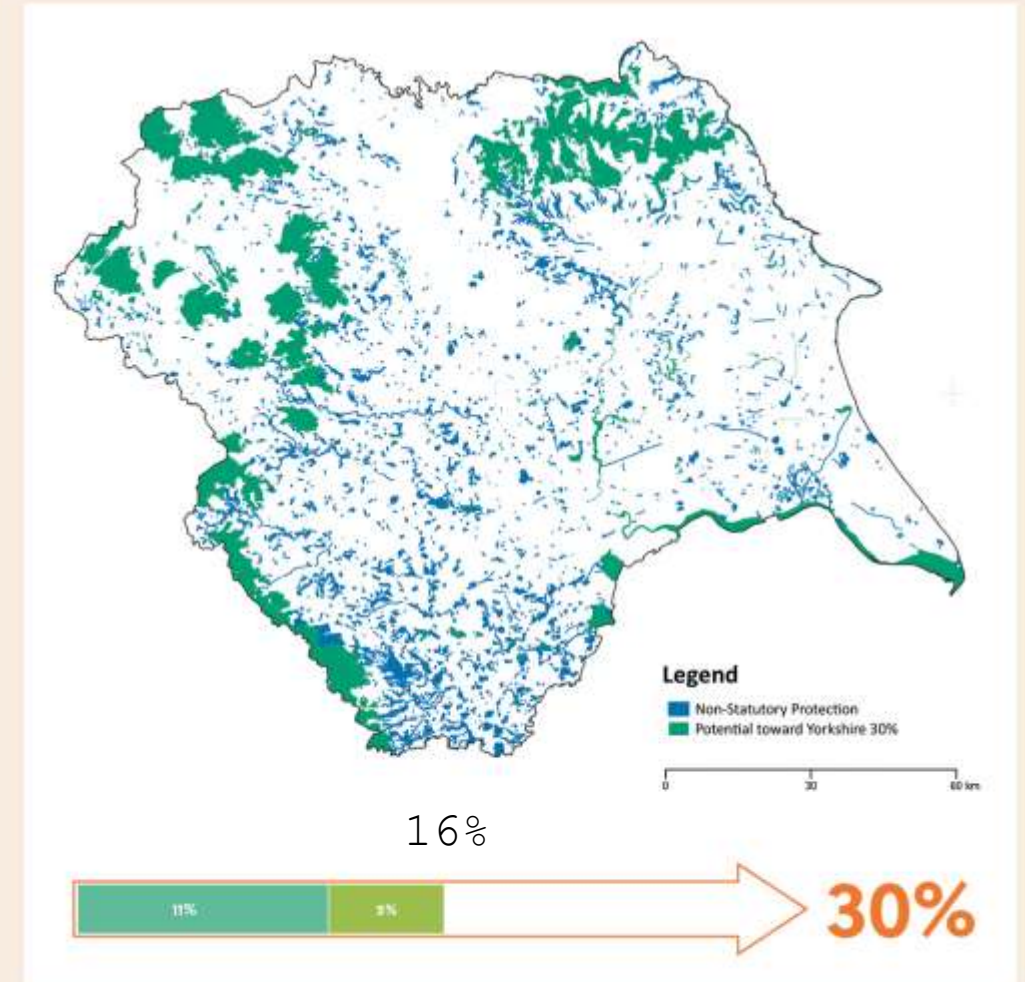
The Protected Area Network

The backbone of a resilient nature network

Opportunity 2: Protect more places for nature

Achieved through:

- *better LWS monitoring and management*
- *more LWS sites/NGO reserves*
- *protect and improve ancient woodlands*
- *Bring more land under nature-friendly management*





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Opportunity 3



More, **bigger, better** and joined

Protected Landscapes

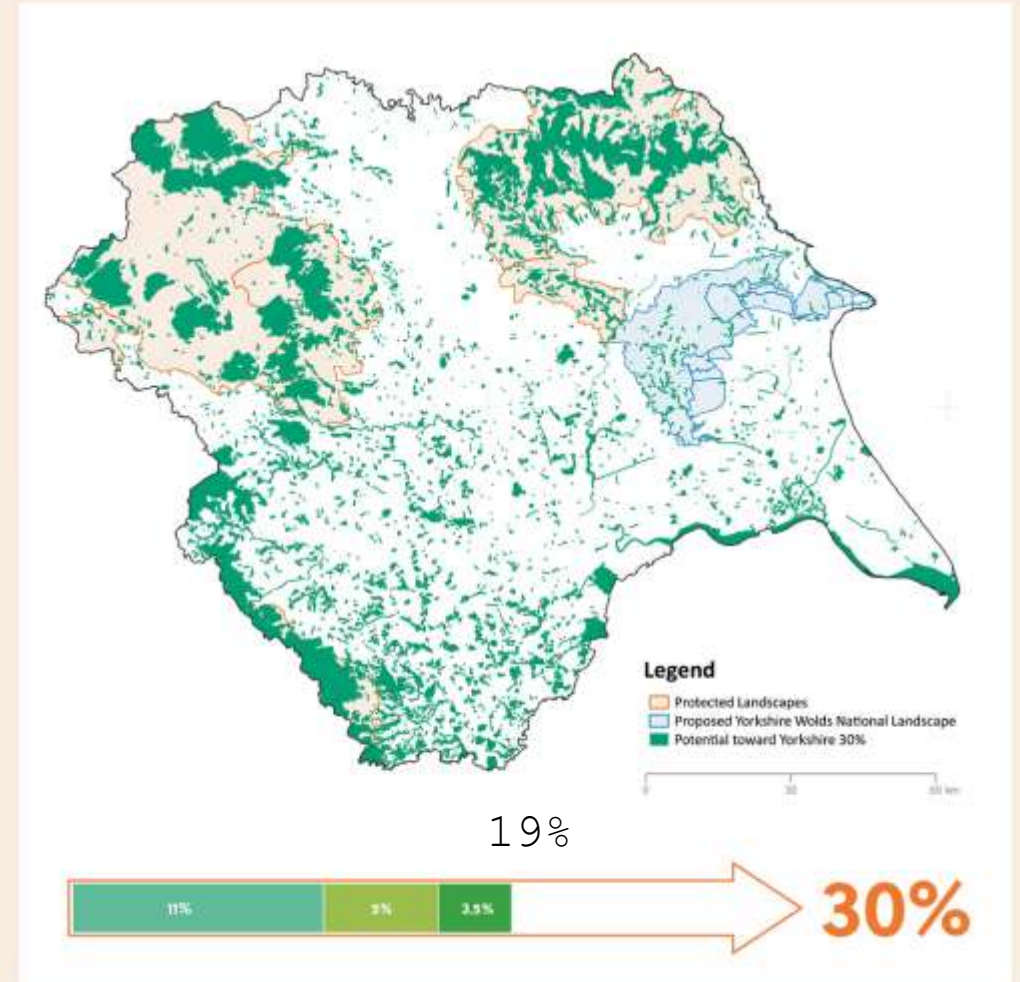
Positioned to be a major contributor

Opportunity 3: Revitalise our Protected Landscapes

Achieved through:

- improving habitat condition*
- restoring ecosystems*
- supporting nature-friendly land*

management





Enhancing the network's integrity and resilience

Opportunity 4: Create new nature-rich landscapes

Achieved through increased/more:

- *extent of large-scale nature recovery*
- *number of Landscape Recovery Schemes*
- *peat restoration*
- *estates and large landowners*



28%



30%



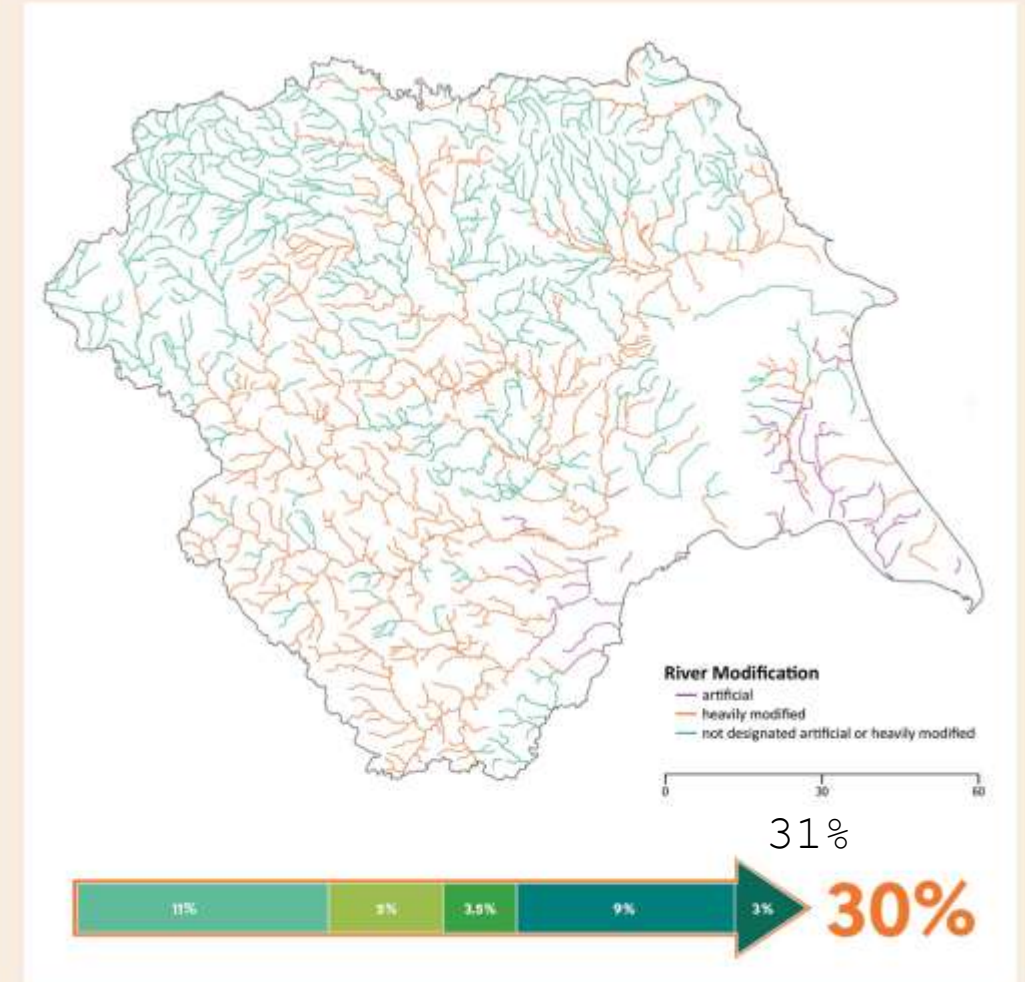
Connecting the network

stepping stones and corridors

Opportunity 5: Reconnect wild spaces

Achieved through:

- *better land corridors (hedges, road verges, . . .)*
- *rivers restored and reconnected to their catchments*
- *enhanced pond / wetland network*
- *more pollinator and buffer strips, gardens, green spaces, street trees . . .*





Halting and reversing species declines & restoring ecological processes

Opportunity 6: Restore threatened species

Achieved through:

- *iconic species projects to engage and inspire the public*
- *re-introducing extinct species, especially ecosystem engineers*
- *reinforcing endangered populations*





Delivering nature's recovery through the power of the people

Opportunity 7: Mobilise nature positive communities

Achieved through:

- ***increased access to nature***
- ***empowering people to take action*** – community groups, LNRS, planning and policy consultations
- ***promoting wildlife gardening: 9 out of 10 households in the UK have gardens – 25 million gardens!***
- ***using our voice for nature – 8***

Public strongly backs aim of 30% of land and sea set aside for nature, poll finds

Survey of eight countries finds 82% of people support 30x30 biodiversity target, as progress stalls on protected areas





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The importance of the other 70%

Farming for the future

- Nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ of Yorkshire is under agricultural management

Towns and cities have enormous wildlife potential

- Urban and suburban areas cover around 10% of Yorkshire
- LAs own over 50,000 ha of Yorkshire's land – that's about 3.5% of the county



Let's work together

In conservation **More,**
Bigger, Better, and Joined
will deliver a healthy and
resilient nature network .
. .

we too need to **join up to**
strengthen our network.

