



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE
& PETERBOROUGH**
COMBINED AUTHORITY



Local Nature Recovery Strategy

for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough



**Creating a wildlife-rich, resilient, productive and
sustainable landscape, for people and nature**

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We are seeking your views on this Local Nature Recovery Strategy



Part 1 of the document reminds us why nature is so important to our lives. It shows some of big challenges that our natural environment faces. It also shows the opportunities for action. Nature recovery can deliver wide benefits, such as water and air quality, or reducing flood risk.

Part 2 sets out the actions (also referred to as measures) we are suggesting for our most important habitats and species. Some actions cannot be mapped but are still important.

We suggest reading this document first. However, if you want you can go straight to what the strategy is recommending near you by looking at the Local Habitat Map. The map shows existing areas important for nature. It also takes the actions and shows where they could apply. The map has different layers that you can turn on or off – easy instructions are provided on the webpage.

We'd love to hear your comments on both this document and the map. We want to hear about whether we have got the right plants, animals and habitats. We want to hear about

the actions we suggest, and if we have shown all the right areas.

You can leave your comments here

You don't have to leave a comment on every question – just skip to those that you want to. You can also leave a comment on the map pages.

Once we have all the comments we will consider what changes are needed. We will approve the final Strategy by the end of the year.

Once the Strategy is approved then Local Plans and planning permissions need to have regard to it. Government will use it in its future spending plans. If you farm or manage land then the strategy can't require you to make any changes, but it will suggest the priority areas when action could be taken. All of our natural environment is important. We encourage everyone to look after nature. However, to have the best impact we need to focus our activity. This is why we are very interested in your comments on the actions and areas the Strategy shows.



Nature recovery: let's make it happen!

For millennia we have lived alongside and amongst nature, experiencing an abundance of wildlife through the changing seasons, the dawn chorus and bluebells in spring, wildflowers and clouds of insects in summer, autumn colours, and flocks of birds or owls hooting in winter. Our own prosperity was entwined with the natural world.

Since the industrial revolution and throughout the twentieth century we have improved our quality of lives in terms of health and life expectancy, quality of housing, income and material goods. Yet in the process we lost our connection to the natural world and have collectively forgotten that our own prosperity depends upon the natural world. We drained marshes, cut down woods, ploughed up wildflower meadows and polluted rivers. Our economic and political system has under-valued the natural world until it is nearly too late.

But it isn't too late. We know and understand there is a climate and biodiversity emergency. This is the first step on our journey to re-connect with nature, to value the natural world and to take action to bring about nature's recovery.

At times the size of the task may appear too daunting. However, we can all take action to help nature recover and collectively, everyone acting, even in small ways, we will make a difference.

Carrying out at least one wildlife friendly gardening option at home, whether putting up nestboxes, creating a pond, leaving part of a lawn unmown for part of the year, or planting pollinator friendly garden or window-box plants can make a difference. If 30% of gardens were wildlife friendly, this would be equivalent in area to all our internationally important wetlands. We can all reduce our carbon footprint and the amount of water that we use. We can start or continue our nature recovery journey at home.

With the right support, nature-friendly farming can flourish. This may include cropping less land at the field edges where the land is not as productive or having grass buffers adjacent to hedgerows, ditches and rivers. It may include a variety of higher value wildlife options such as bird seed mixes or pollinator flower mixes, or creating thick, dense hedgerows. Minimising the use of pesticides and fertilisers

alongside the above measures will help wild plant and insect populations to recover, which in turn feeds our birds and mammals. Some landowners will be able to create high-value habitats such as species-rich meadows, woodlands and wetlands, to buffer and extend our core nature sites.

Our parks and urban greenspaces can be managed to provide more space for wildlife, whether that is unmown or less frequently mown corners, new wildflower meadows, parkland and street trees, or hedgerows and small woodlands. Communities can work with their councils to create their own nature recovery plans for their local patch and make them happen.

Businesses can work with our Local Planning Authorities to invest in the new strategic natural places that our growing population requires. We can plan for and create the new downland, woodland, fen and parkland around and between our growing cities, towns and villages, to improve our quality of life.

Our Local Nature Recovery Strategy sets out the range of actions that will bring about nature recovery in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The Local Habitat Map shows where these actions will benefit our most valuable habitats. However, nature recovery is more than just one strategy. It is about us all acting for nature and in so doing, our actions no matter how small will help us reconnect with the natural world.

In reconnecting with the natural world, we will value what nature provides for us and how it is essential to our health, our food supplies, clean water and economic prosperity.

We can create an environment where we will hear a richer dawn chorus in our woods, hedgerows and parks, see clouds of butterflies and other insects in flower-rich meadows, verges and field margins, and witness large flocks of birds flying across our skies. Our rivers and chalk streams will flow with clean water and be teeming with fish, dragonflies, water voles and otters.

We have the knowledge to help nature recover. Let's make it happen!

