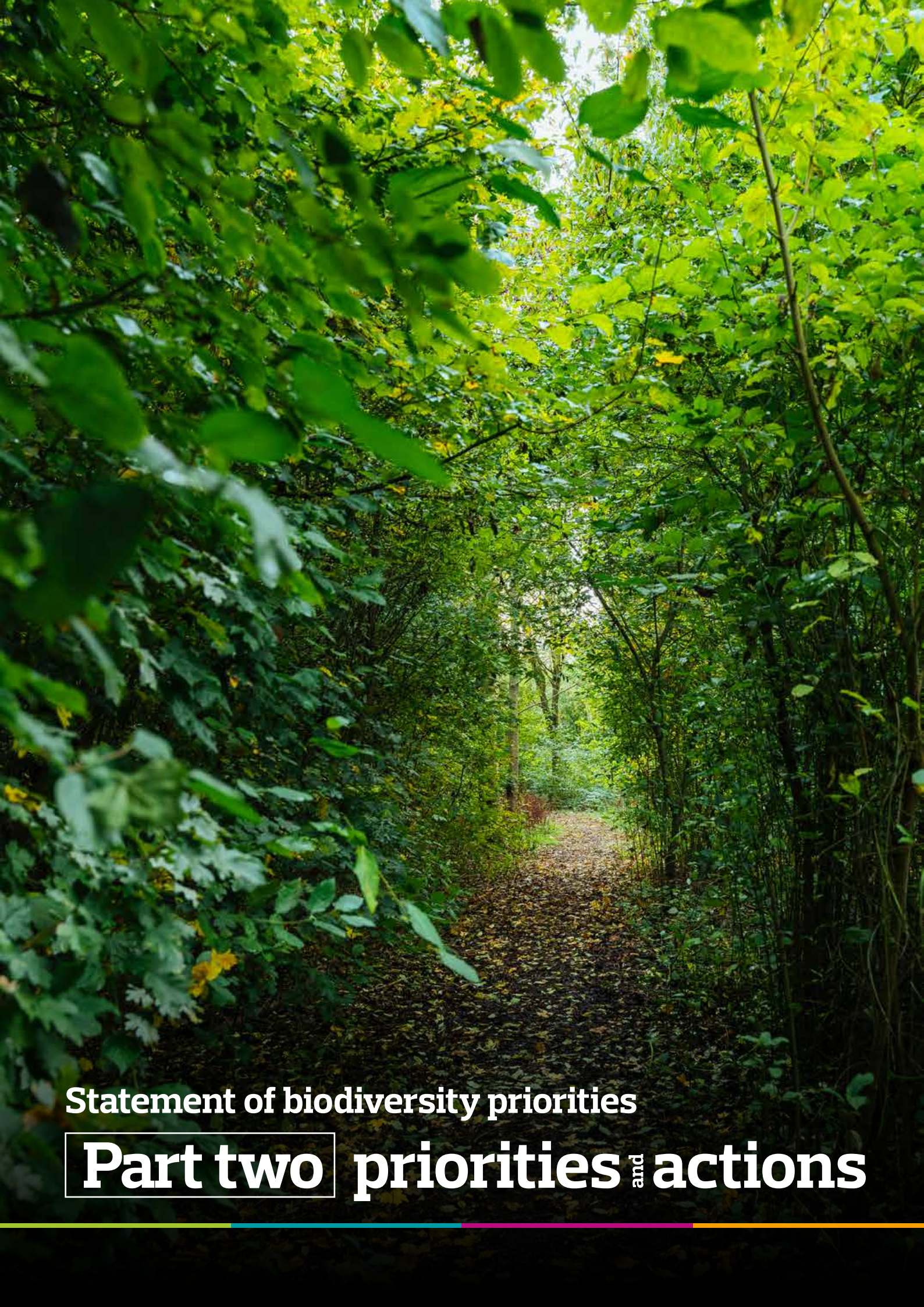




Statement of biodiversity priorities

Part two priorities and actions

Contents

Chapter five

Our vision for nature recovery04

What can you do to help
achieve the vision?05

Strategic aims for nature recovery06

Chapter six

Priority natural landscapes10

Landscape-scale nature recovery10

Identification of priority
natural landscapes11

Beyond the priority natural
landscapes15

Nature recovery on our farmland15

The Fens15

The Claylands16

The Chalklands17

Nature recovery in our cities
towns and villages18

Chapter seven

Priorities for nature recovery20

Habitats identified as local priorities20

Habitat actions21

Species identified as local priorities46

Species actions46

Chapter eight

Local habitat map82

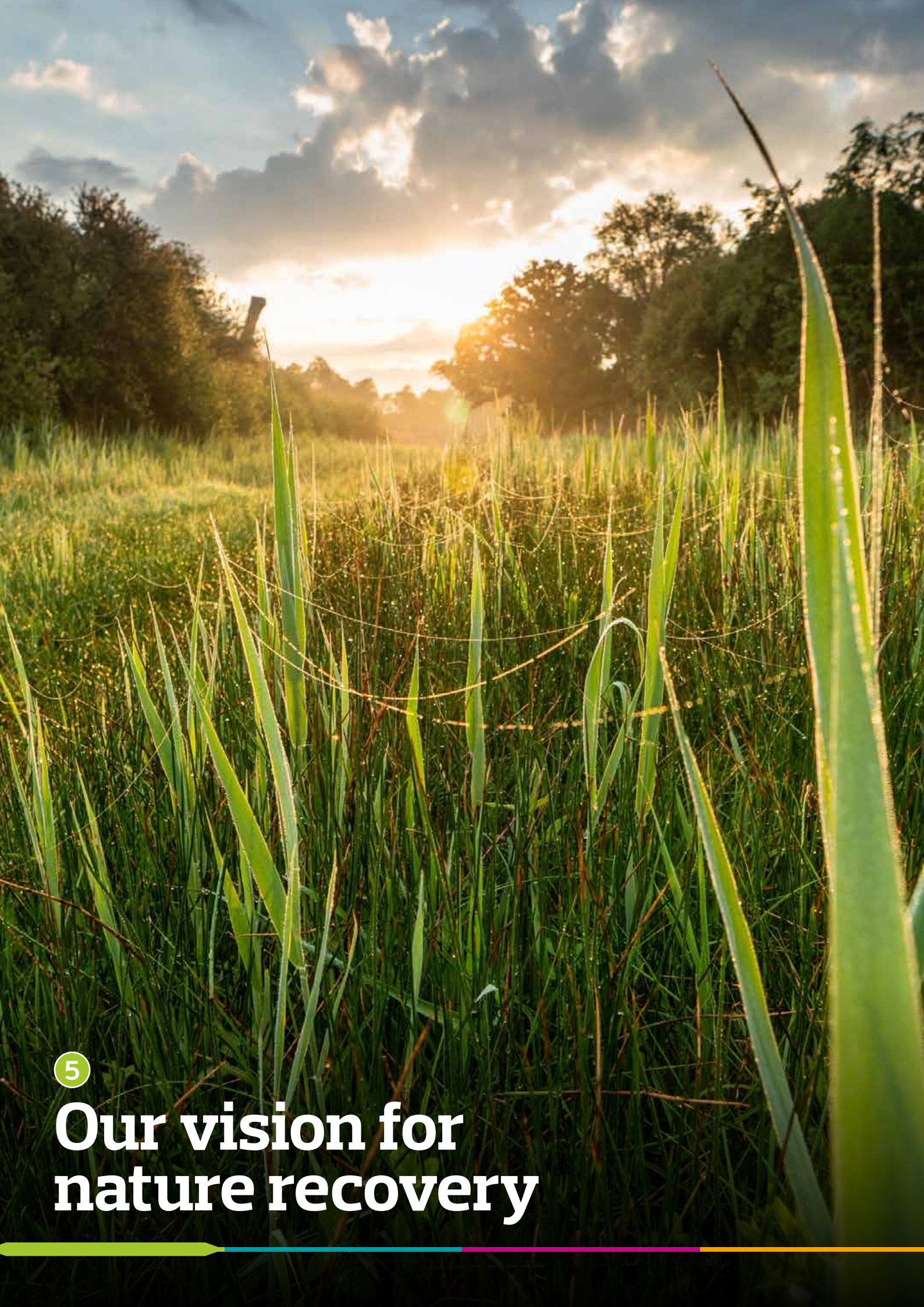
Next Steps82

Acknowledgements82



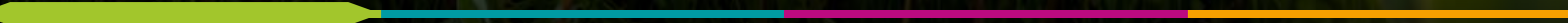
Jump to
Part one
Area description





5

Our vision for nature recovery



Our vision for nature recovery

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

At the heart of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough's vision for nature recovery is taking action to create, restore, connect and ultimately double the amount of nature. This will enhance our rich natural and agricultural heritage.

Doubling nature will see internationally significant wildlife sites extended, buffered, enriched and connected through nature-filled corridors and stepping stones across our landscape. This means that land managed for nature will increase from around 8% today to more than 16% by 2040.

The ambition to at least double nature in the area is viewed as an achievable target. This strategy goes further, identifying just under 30% of land as providing the best opportunities for nature restoration activity. This provides scope to exceed our doubling nature target.

The vision sees the creation of corridors of abundant biodiversity threading between and through our villages, settlements and cities. It envisages vibrant communities taking actions for nature in gardens, parks and local wild spaces.

As an area with a strong growth agenda, the vision is for new high quality wildlife areas to be integrated with housing and commercial developments. Newly created natural green spaces within easy reach of communities will help attract businesses and retain staff to benefit our local economy.

In the fens and river valleys, functioning wetlands will connect across the area through wildlife-rich rivers, ditches, drains and floodplains. Improved water management will support our internationally important habitats and our productive agricultural land. Nature recovery will take place alongside securing water supplies for our existing and new towns, while also providing flood relief in affected areas. Identifying and effectively managing restorable peat habitats will also increase the longevity and resilience of productive land and reduce carbon emissions.



Our vision for nature recovery (continued)

Our chalk streams will be restored to provide diverse habitats for some of our most precious species as well as creating tranquil places for people to connect with nature. Our historic orchards will be valued, and new community orchards established to provide fruit for local communities. This will strengthen the connection with the area's fruit growing and horticultural heritage.

The farmed landscape of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough supports nationally important populations of farmland birds, insects and rare plants. Maintaining flower-rich field margins and increasing habitat connections through the sensitive management of ditches and hedgerows,

will create a diversity of wildlife-rich areas within a productive arable system.

In one of the driest areas of the country, our distinctive grasslands, woodlands, and wetland habitats will be cherished and managed to support the area's resilience to future changes in climate. Declines in species will be halted, and thriving, reconnected populations of plants and animals will be established.

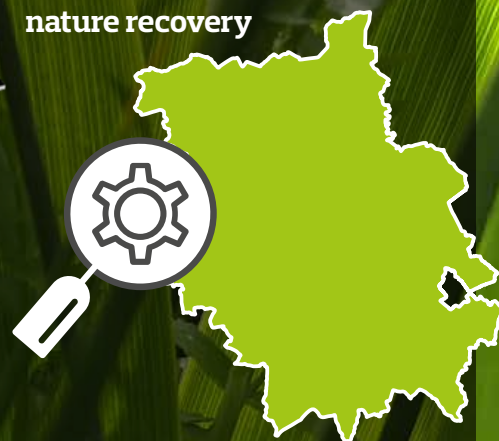
Working alongside new approaches in sustainable development and farming, there will be more spaces for nature which will be made, better, bigger and joined up, to ensure Cambridgeshire and Peterborough becomes an exemplar of nature recovery.

What can you do to help achieve the vision?

- 1 Read our strategy and supporting documents to find out what you can do for nature



- 2 Explore our interactive maps to see where you can take the most effective action for nature recovery



- 3 Let us know what you have been doing for nature recovery



[Click here to discover more](#)



Did you know?

Researchers at University College London found that people who spend just two hours a week in nature report significantly better health and wellbeing than those who don't

(White et al., Scientific Reports, 2019).



Strategic aims for nature recovery

The strategic aims for nature recovery in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough are listed below. These have been identified through:



Workshops with farmers, landowners, technical specialists, local authorities, government agencies and environmental organisations

Engagement sessions with communities, interest groups and local people

public surveys

desk based research

Existing strategic environmental reports produced for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

Air quality



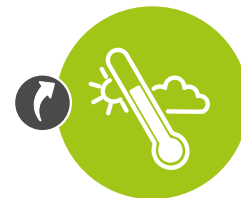
Strategic aim:

Improve the air quality of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and reduce impacts on habitat and species.

Climate change

Strategic aim:

Strengthen the resilience of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough's environment against the effects of extreme weather and climate change impacts..



Communities



Strategic aim:

Enhance a sense of place where both people and nature can benefit by:

- empowering organisations, communities and interest groups (e.g. faith groups) to manage priority habitats, local freshwater habitats and community greenspaces.
- promoting and educating people's connections to nature and improving health and wellbeing.
- supporting local organisations and interest groups to help recover nature on their doorstep.
- working with residents to identify and improve or provide areas of natural green space close to existing settlements.

Doubling nature

Strategic aim:

Support Natural Cambridgeshire's doubling nature ambition to at least double the area of rich wildlife habitats from approximately 8% to more than 16% by 2040 and increasing beyond that.





Development

Strategic aim:

Encourage existing, new and large developments to incorporate wildlife friendly features in gardens, buildings and land by:

- maximising opportunities for wildlife through the planning system.
- enhancing and expanding existing greenspaces for wildlife, and providing new strategic green space connected to the wider green infrastructure network by green corridors, to address the lack of accessible green infrastructure, reduce recreational pressure on existing nature sites, provide multifunctional benefits and provide an important asset to meet growing demand from proposed development.
- introducing urban greening interventions such as green roofs, sustainable drainage systems (SuDS), street trees, wildflower verges, allotments and pocket parks within existing and newly proposed urban areas to deliver multiple benefits for people, wildlife and the environment.
- supporting biodiversity net gain (BNG) policy, encouraging 20% as a minimum, where possible.

Environmentally friendly farming

Strategic aim:

That farming and food production across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough is conducted using environmentally sustainable practices, recognising the importance of food production and the potential of farming to support nature recovery



Historic environment

Strategic aim:

Celebrate Cambridgeshire and Peterborough's rich culture, built / natural heritage, and its geology and surrounding environment by:

- Protecting the character and integrity of the rural landscape, whilst maximising the environmental benefits including the historic environment.
- Understanding and promoting protection of the historic environment alongside nature recovery

Did you know?

In parts of the Cambridgeshire Fens, peat has started forming at least 6 times (with marine flooding in between) since the last Ice Age - it really does want to grow peat!



Internationally rare chalk streams

Strategic aim:

Recognise the importance of the internationally rare chalk streams within Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and collaborate with cross-boundary partners to conserve and restore them



Lawton Principles



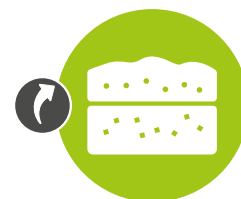
Strategic aim:

Respond to the existing deficit of rich wildlife areas across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough by using the Lawton Principles of 'better, bigger, more and joined up'

Peatland

Strategic aim:

Promote healthy functioning peatlands to store and capture carbon whilst not increasing methane emissions.



Water quality and resources



Strategic aim:

Promote integrated water management techniques considering water resources, quality, and resilience to flooding to support:

- improvement of water quality by better management of pollutants from farmland, transport networks, wastewater works and other rural and urban sources.
- improvement of water efficiency for domestic and commercial use
- exploring options for addressing water scarcity.
- using nature recovery as part of a natural flood management programme to help mitigate against flood risk.