

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
NATURE RECOVERY GRANT PRIORITIES
SUMMARY

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)

- The Ecological Network
- The Lawton Principles
- Challenges
- Priority Habitats
- Priority Species

SCDC Climate and Nature Strategy priorities

- Adaptation & Resilience
- Nature and Water
- Sustainable Food

Application Example

Please consider the questions on each slide - they are designed to help you respond to the application questions.

LNRS -STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

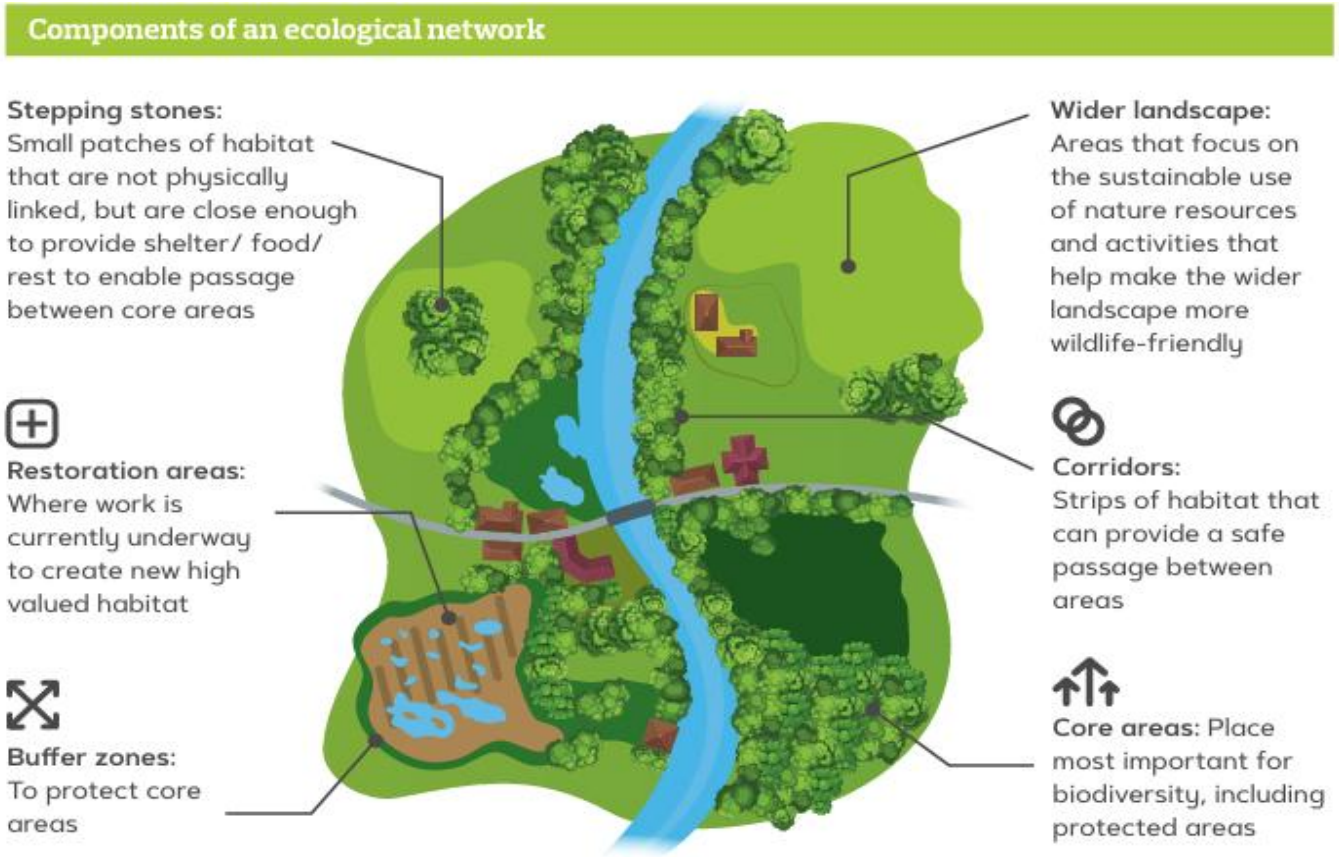
How does your project align with strategic aims and principles of the LNRS?

- **Air Quality** – improve the air quality and reduce impacts on habitat and species.
- **Climate Change** – strengthen the resilience of the environment against the impacts of climate change including extreme weather.
- **Communities** – enhance a sense of place where both people and nature can benefit.
- **Doubling nature** – double the area of rich wildlife habitats from ~8% to more than 16% by 2040, using the Lawton Principles (see next slide).
- **Environmentally friendly farming** – support farming and food production which uses environmentally sustainable practices, recognising the importance of food production and the potential of farming to support nature recovery.
- **Geodiversity** – conserve and celebrate the geodiversity character and natural heritage of rural and urban landscapes.

LNRS - THE ECOLOGICAL NETWORK

Which element of the ecological network will your project involve/help to improve?

- Core Areas
- Buffer zones
- Stepping stones
- Corridors
- Restoration areas
- Wider landscape



LNRS - THE LAWTON PRINCIPLES

The Lawton Principles has 4 characteristics that describe **how** you can enhance nature for a healthy ecosystem.

How can your project make the ecological components better, bigger, more, and joined up.



LNRS - CHALLENGES

Is your project helping to address the challenges for nature?

If so, how? Why is it important to address these challenges?
Examples:

- Habitat loss, fragmentation and degradation
- Pesticides; pollution
- Invasive species and disease
- Climate change
- Water quality and water scarcity
- Growth and development
- Other local challenges?



LNRS - PRIORITY HABITATS

Which priority habitats will your project benefit?



Trees and woodland



Grassland and open habitat



Wetlands



Rivers and streams

Your project could also benefit **mosaic (mixed)**, **farmed** and **urban** landscapes

LNRS - PRIORITY SPECIES

Which priority species will your project benefit?

South Cambridgeshire is home to a diverse range of wildlife and plants including birds, fish, invertebrates, mammals and plants. The LNRS has identified 187 species that are locally and nationally important. See p. 47 – 80 of the LNRS for the full list, and what you can do to help them:

Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

Tip: look for relevant species by searching for the habitat grouping that applies to your site, for example, fens, floodplain, woodland, grassland, farmland, urban landscape, ponds, chalk stream, fields











All images taken from the LNRS Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

SCDC CLIMATE AND NATURE STRATEGY



How does your project align with strategic aims of the Climate and Nature Strategy?

The SCDC Climate and Nature Strategy was adopted in 2026 with a renewed focus on nature recovery. Aligning with the aims of the LNRS, our strategy includes ambitious **strategic aims** for protecting and enhancing nature:

- Doubling the quantity and quality of land managed for nature from 7% to 14% by 2050
- Ensuring that increases in land areas managed for nature are resilient to future climate impacts
- Prioritise nature-based solutions when considering actions to adapt to the impacts of climate change
- Ensure increased access to green spaces is equitable, enhancing community health and wellbeing.

To achieve these targets, the strategy includes potential actions in three key areas to help nature recover (see the following pages) – your innovative ideas are also encouraged!

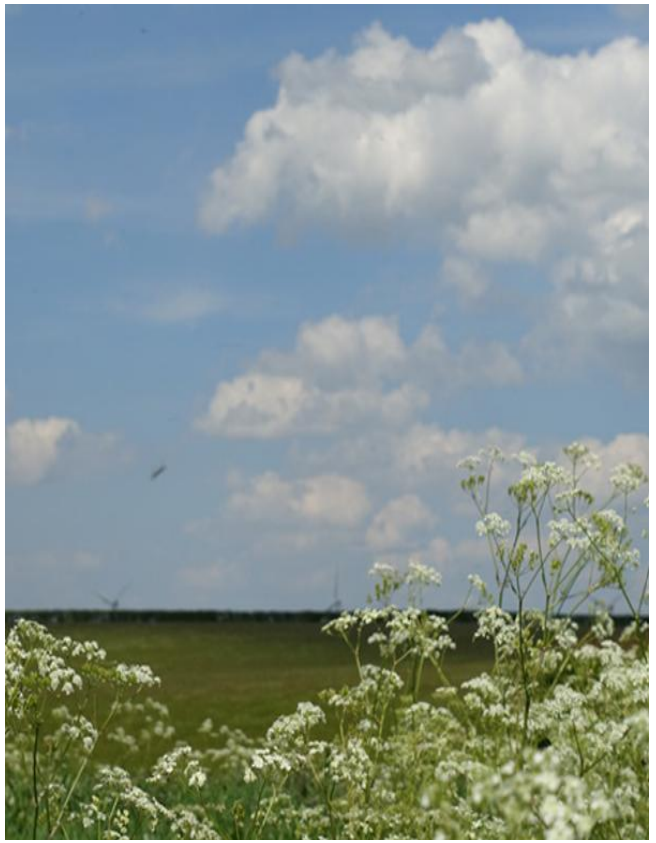
Optional: read the full strategy here

ADAPTATION & RESILIENCE



How can nature-based solutions help tackle climate change and respond to its impacts?

- Planting trees for CO2 absorption, habitat creation, and shading / cooling.
- Make landscapes more resilient to climate shocks such as floods and droughts. For example:
  - creating ‘spongy’ areas (such as wetlands, ponds or SuDs),
  - planting water-retaining species,
  - seeding drought-resistant grasses, and leaving the ground covered with vegetation.
- Consider which solutions are best for your project area (i.e. is it more prone to flooding, drought or other risks?).
- Features to help wildlife cope with extreme weather (water baths, drinking sources, cooling structures or ‘wild’ shelters.
- Reduce water usage
- Increasing access to nature in more built-up areas



WATER AND NATURE



How can your project help nature thrive?

- Encourage and adopt farming practices that increase biodiversity – 79.9% of land use in South Cambridgeshire is made up of land managed for agriculture.
- Rewild parish-owned land including reduced mowing, wildflower planting, reducing or eliminating pesticide usage.
- Nature-friendly gardening on public allotments.
- Improve the quality of rivers and chalk streams (in-channel) and factors that influence their quality (landscape).
- Retain water and reduce water usage.
- Create habitats in core areas (e.g. pocket parks, areas reserved for wildlife), nodes (e.g. wild verges), and corridors (e.g. wildlife highways) .



SUSTAINABLE FOOD



How can we make food more sustainable and help nature at the same time?

- New food-growing initiatives that also increase biodiversity.
- Create biodiversity-rich areas where food is already produced (on farmland, in community forests and orchards, allotments).
- Planting food crops that also benefit wildlife ie. Pollinators and birds.
- Managing food waste sustainably, for example by creating community-scale composting systems – local supply of compost which supports invertebrates and other dependant species.



APPLICATION EXAMPLE : CREATING A WILDFLOWER MEADOW

Click here to view example responses to the application form questions about the LNRS and SCDC Climate and Nature Strategy

