

**Public
Key Decision – Yes**

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Title/Subject Matter: Huntingdonshire Priority Natural Landscapes

Meeting/Date: Cabinet – 15th October 2024
Council – 16th October 2024

Executive Portfolio: Councillor Simone Taylor
Councillor Tom Sanderson

Report by: Nicholas Massey – Parks and Countryside Project
Manager

Ward(s) affected: All

Executive Summary:

This report seeks formal recognition of the priority landscapes identified in the Nature Recovery Network for Huntingdonshire, which is the evidence base for these recommendations. These landscapes will guide the council in enhancing the natural environment as the district continues to grow, without hindering future development.

The recognition of these landscapes supports the Huntingdonshire Futures strategy, particularly in fostering community pride and environmental innovation. It aligns with the Council's Corporate Plan and Climate Strategy, applying a "green lens" to decision-making to improve biodiversity and help communities care for the environment.

While not a statutory planning document, these landscapes will inform planning policy and contribute to the Local Nature Recovery Strategy, led by Cambridgeshire County Council and owned by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority. This work aims to increase and restore nature, linking to the Council's environmental goals and ensuring a better quality of life for future generations by preserving and enhancing Huntingdonshire's natural assets.

Recommendations:

The Cabinet is advised to formally recognise the landscapes identified in this report as priority landscapes.

RECOMMENDED

that the Cabinet;

- 1) formally recognise and adopt the Priority Landscapes of Huntingdonshire as set out in this report,
- 2) endorse the use of the Nature Recovery Network for Huntingdonshire Document as an evidence base for the identification of Priority Natural Landscapes,
- 3) endorse the use of the Nature Recovery Network for Huntingdonshire Document to inform the response to and engagement with the development of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy and subsequently future Planning Policy,
- 4) delegate to the Assistant Director (Strategic Insight and Delivery) in consultation with the Executive Portfolio Holder to make any minor amendments to the Priority Landscapes of Huntingdonshire policy; (subject to a review of the policy to be undertaken within three years) and
- 5) delegate to the Corporate Director – Place to implement any necessary procedural changes as a result of this endorsement.

that the Council is;

RECOMMENDED

to receive and note the report.

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 This report aims to gain formal recognition of the priority landscapes set out in the Nature Recovery Network for Huntingdonshire (NRNH) (Background Papers). The Landscapes are:

- The Great Fen
- The Great Ouse Valley
- West Cambridgeshire Hundreds
- The Nene Valley
- Grafham-Brampton-River Kym
- Hail Weston to Bushmead
- Fen-edge Woodlands
- Holme to Conington
- Folksworth-Elton-Ashton Wold
- River Corridors

1.2 Huntingdonshire is traversed by several significant river corridors. These include:

1.2.1 **River Great Ouse:** One of the major rivers in the area, it flows through key towns such as St Ives, Huntingdon, and Godmanchester. The River Great Ouse is vital for local biodiversity, recreation, and historical significance.

1.2.2 **River Nene:** While it primarily flows through Northamptonshire, parts of the River Nene catchment area extend into the northern parts of Huntingdonshire, influencing local watercourses and habitats.

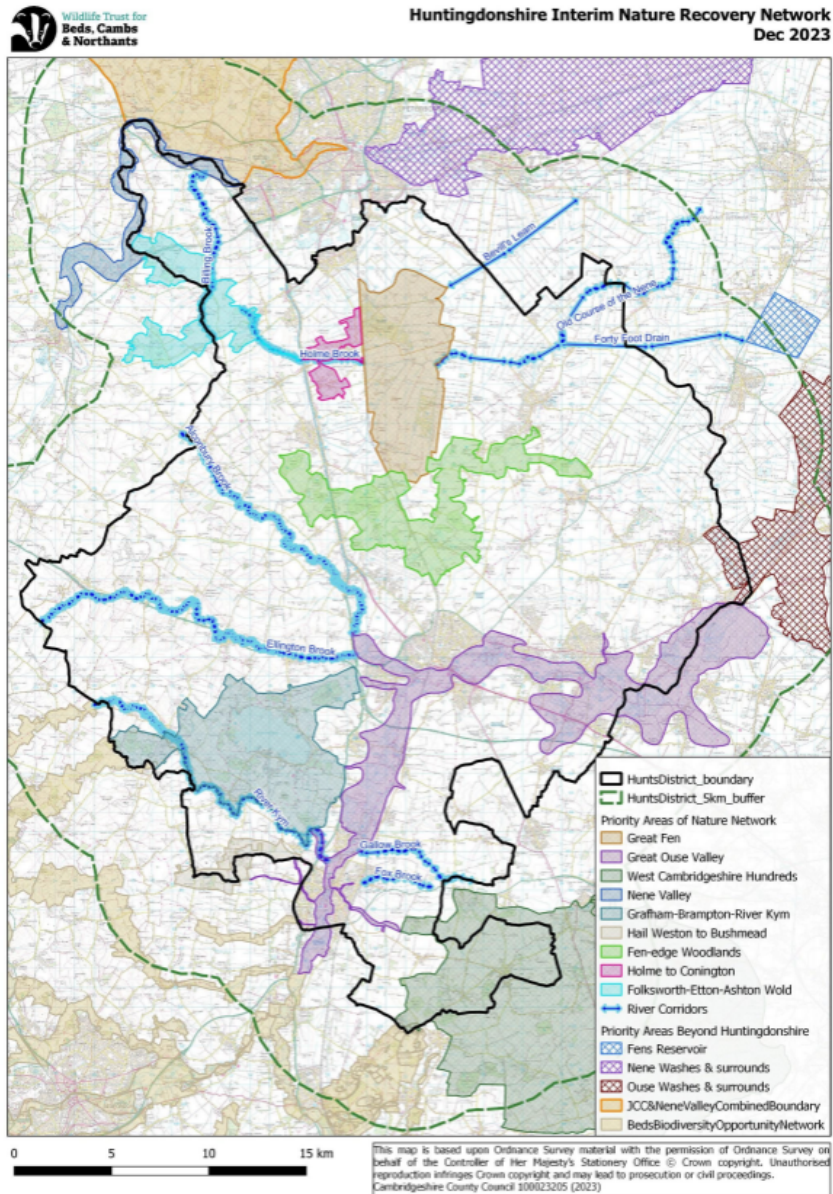
1.2.3 **Alconbury Brook:** A tributary of the River Great Ouse, it runs through the village of Alconbury and is important for local wildlife and flood management.

1.2.4 **Ellington Brook:** Another tributary of the River Great Ouse, it flows through Ellington and contributes to the local river system's ecological diversity.

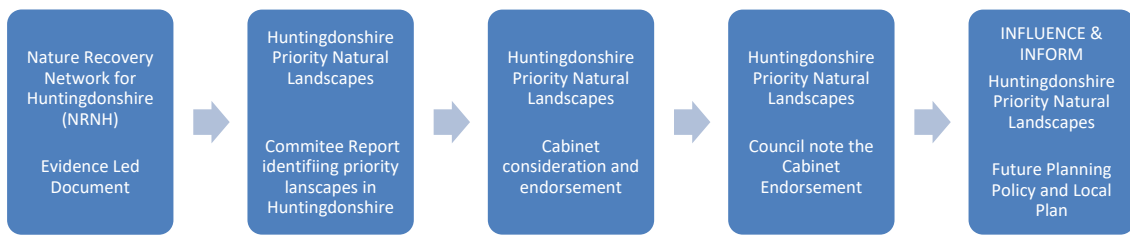
1.2.5 **Buckden Brook:** This brook is part of the intricate network feeding into the River Great Ouse, impacting the surrounding habitats and landscapes.

1.3 These river corridors are crucial for maintaining the region's ecological balance, supporting biodiversity, and providing natural flood management, recreational opportunities, and scenic beauty.

Map 1: Huntingdonshire Interim Nature Recovery Network Priority Areas



- 1.4 The landscapes identified in this document will guide the Council in its endeavours to enhance the nature network in Huntingdonshire, highlighting priorities that may be taken in the future as Huntingdonshire continues to grow.
- 1.5 These priority landscapes will inform planning policy as it developed through the development of the update to the Huntingdonshire Local Plan 2036 and support the Huntingdonshire District Council's contribution to the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS), which Cambridgeshire County Council is developing on behalf of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority.



1.7 This basic process shows the evidence base for these recommendations being the work of the BCN Wildlife Trust, which has informed this report setting out the recommendations for Cabinet to approve the recognition of the Landscapes, which can then be used to inform Planning Policy and the Local plans.

2.0 BACKGROUND

What is the NRNH?

- 2.1 With the introduction of the Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) and Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) requirements into the Environment Act 2021, Huntingdonshire District Council's Biodiversity for All project commissioned a report by the Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire (BCN) Wildlife Trust, in September 2023, to aid the Council with its approach to these new areas of work. This report is called the Nature Recovery Network for Huntingdonshire (NRNH) and can be found in the Background Papers.
- 2.2 The NRNH is the evidence base for the identification of the Priority Natural Landscapes. The NRNH sets out the reasons and evidence for the each area identified.
- 2.3 The BCN Wildlife Trust is a key stakeholder in the LNRS development, which aims to identify the priority landscapes for nature throughout Cambridgeshire. The BCN Wildlife Trust is completing similar work across the county to provide evidence for the LNRS.
- 2.4 The NRNH identifies evidence-led priority landscape areas for large-scale, strategic biodiversity and landscape enhancement in Huntingdonshire. This information informs the statutory Local Nature Recovery Strategy and wider place-shaping strategies and funding streams.
- 2.5 A secondary purpose is to set out a framework for local action to enhance biodiversity and people's connection to nature, thus supporting the Council's Corporate Priority, 'Improving quality of life for local people' and 'creating a better Huntingdonshire for future generations.
- 2.6 The NRNH is also a fundamental building block supporting the delivery of Huntingdonshire Futures, the place strategy to influence better outcomes

for our residents and communities to ensure Huntingdonshire continues to be one of the best places to live in the country. Particularly the two key goals of Pride in place – a distinct, unified, and well-loved place where we feel proud to live and Environmental Innovation – home to beautiful, local landscapes.

National Context

- 2.7 The UK Government amended the Environment Act 2021 in March 2023 to introduce Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG), a new condition for planning permissions designed to improve the natural environment. It is, however, recognised that some forms of development are exempt.

BNG

- 2.8 The BNG requirement of the Environment Act became statutory in February 2024. As part of the long-term protection of nature, the Act sets out the need to identify priority locations for biodiversity offsetting for developments where it is not possible to achieve a net gain on-site. Where off-site biodiversity net gain and enhancement measures are required, these would benefit most when they are targeted to priority locations set out in the NRNH.

LNRS

- 2.9 Each LNRS will be specific and tailored to its area. The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority is responsible for the LNRS's delivery and has commissioned Cambridgeshire County Council to deliver the work for the Cambridgeshire area, although Huntingdonshire District Council remains a key stakeholder in its development.
- 2.10 The LNRS will provide other potential environmental benefits, such as identifying areas associated with carbon sequestration, flood regulation and access to nature-rich spaces where this is most needed for health and wellbeing.
- 2.11 Each LNRS will agree on priorities for nature recovery and propose actions in the locations where it would make a particular contribution to achieving those priorities.
- 2.12 Local nature recovery strategies may propose actions such as the
- creation of wetlands
 - restoration of peatlands
 - planting of trees and hedgerows
 - more sustainable management of existing woodlands and other habitats like grasslands
- 2.13 These actions are intended to help nature and improve the wider natural environment.
- 2.14 Responsible authorities must work with other partners when preparing their strategy. They should also involve a wide range of groups to ensure that local nature recovery strategies reflect local priorities and benefit from local knowledge.

- 2.15 This collaborative and strategic approach will help ensure that proposals are appropriate and reflect ambition and an understanding of what can be achieved.
- 2.16 Both BNG and LNRS are legal requirements under the Environment Act 2021, which will help achieve the Council's strengthened legal obligation to enhance and conserve biodiversity. However, LNRSs are not required for mandatory BNG to commence within the planning application process.
- 2.17 LNRS can support a strategic approach to off-site BNG delivery, agreeing on evidence-based locations to expand and connect existing habitats and provide wider environmental benefits. LNRS plays a role in BNG by determining the 'strategic significance' multiplier within the biodiversity metric. The NRNH will operate the same way as the LNRS in the interim before LNRS adoption. Understanding the link between the policies is essential for practitioners involved in BNG delivery.

Corporate Context

- 2.18 Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) and the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) are strongly linked to the Council's Climate Strategy under the nature theme, as these two elements are designed to help increase and restore nature.
- 2.19 At the [full council meeting](#) on Wednesday, 22 February 2023, Councillors formally recognised a climate crisis and ecological emergency in Huntingdonshire and adopted a [climate strategy](#) that sets out the priorities for achieving the net zero carbon council's commitment by 2040. Within this climate strategy there are 6 key priorities:
- Buildings
 - Energy and Renewables
 - Nature
 - Travel and Transport
 - Waste, Recycling and Resource Management
 - Community
- 2.20 The Council's climate strategy highlighted that 83% of respondents to the consultation said that the Council should restore nature and plant trees.
- 2.21 The decision to formally acknowledge the priority landscapes within Huntingdonshire falls within the Nature priority of the council's climate strategy.
- 2.22 The NRNH work also aligns with the Huntingdonshire Place Strategies, which is designed to understand what is most important to residents, communities and stakeholders within our towns and rural areas and looks to build pride in place. The NRNH specifically links in with Journey 4—Environmental Innovation, which states that we should protect what we have. The NRNH sets out the priority landscapes within the District that need to be recognised and celebrated the most. It should be noted that several of the priority landscape areas relate closely to our established towns and villages. They are not intended to be a tool to prevent

development, instead carefully designed, specified development within they may provide opportunities to enhance the areas and provide additional linkages to support nature connectivity.

2.23 The detailed links between the priority landscapes work, and the corporate plan can be found on pages 11-14 of this report.

Local Context

2.24 LNRS looks at high-level geography, so the NRNH focus on the district level and our priorities and issues to ensure they are recognised in the broader work.

2.25 The NRNH identifies the priority landscapes within the District that are best placed to deliver biodiversity net gain and inform the implementation of biodiversity net gain planning policies.

2.26 One key use of the NRNH will be to inform nature recovery plans for managing council-owned open spaces. However, it will also inform and influence broader place-shaping agendas such as:

- other green infrastructure and natural capital investments;
- Town and Parish Neighbourhood Plans;
- Parish nature recovery plans and
- Farming environmental land management schemes.

2.27 The Biodiversity for All Team will be presenting the findings from the NRNH at the Town and Parish Forum on the 23rd October 2024.

2.28 Once approved, the NRNH will set out the District's priority landscapes, inform the development of the County-wide LNRS and the development of future planning policies

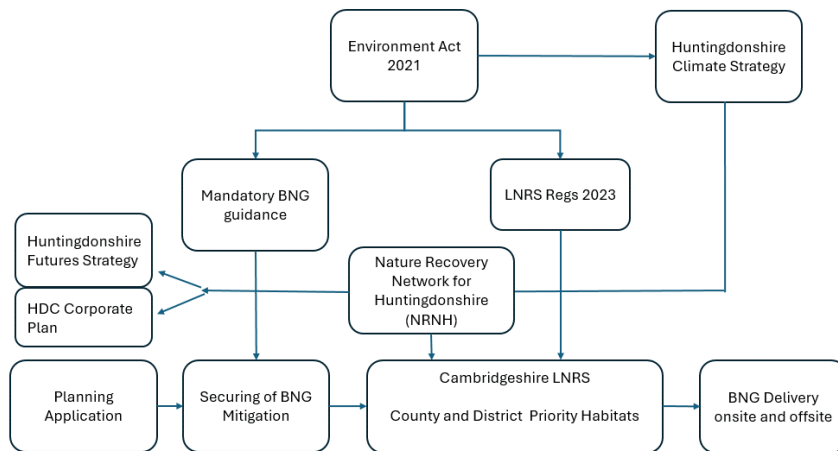
2.29 This recognition would mean that when creating or enhancing the habitat in an identified priority landscape, 1.15x more BNG units can be created in these areas than you would otherwise have made, known as the 'strategic significance multiplier'.

2.30 This multiplier incentivises developers to align with the LNRS in their area when choosing the location of off-site BNG units. It will support BNG in creating locally driven, joined-up outcomes for nature.

2.31 By formally acknowledging the priority natural landscapes set out in this document, the value will be added to the council's statutory planning function, assisting consideration of natural priorities with proposals for growth whilst supporting the implementation and delivery of statutory BNG requirements. The work is also the direct contribution of Huntingdonshire to the LNRS to influence it and ensure that our priorities are identified and set out on the broader geography of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

2.32 Recognising the priority natural landscapes supports the councils Climate Strategy, response to the ecological crisis that the council declared and ensures that the council is focused to deliver maximum benefit to priority landscapes with the potential for more investment and funding in the future.

An example of this is when the Biodiversity for All project used the NRNH to inform the decision-making process for its Community Biodiversity Grant Scheme.



2.32 The above diagram demonstrates the links between the national policies and organisation work.

3.0 COMMENTS OF OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY

3.1 The Panel discussed the Huntingdonshire Priority Natural Landscapes Report at its meeting on 3rd October 2024.

3.2 The Panel heard that, following questions from Councillor Alban, the project was an evidence based piece of work and whilst discussions had been held with local landowners during the evidence gathering process, this had not been opened to public consultation at this stage. The Panel were also advised that the study was not focussed on access to the identified spaces, many of the spaces had public rights of way or assumed access and it was noted that during adverse weather some rights of way may be closed in order to protect the habitats and environment of the location.

3.3 It was clarified to the Panel, in response to an enquiry from Councillor Shaw that there were nine identified locations within the document and that the tenth location were the river corridors.

3.4 Following a question from Councillor Hassall, the Panel heard that the report had not been presented to the Local Plan Advisory Group (LPAG). The Panel were advised that the report would be further presented to Cabinet and to Council during the October cycle of meetings. The Panel were reassured that the priority landscapes identified were where the Council wanted to enhance and not inhibit development and would be part of an evidence base being pushed into the Local Nature Recovery Strategy which is a County wide piece of work that will be a planning document with formal consultation built in. This piece of work would be developed by

Cambridgeshire County Council who will be undertaking the work on behalf of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority. This Strategy will help to identify the right locations for new developments. It was noted that the work so far is a technical study, which will form an evidence base which, once developed and adopted, could be used by Planning to make informed decisions. This work is part of a framework of evidence and will be used as supporting evidence once adopted. Councillor Hassall argued that this study would be of great benefit to LPAG in developing the Local Plan as an evidence based piece of work. It would be helpful for the Group to know where the biodiversity priority areas are and would be fantastic to get this overlay to sit alongside the Local Plan whilst that is in development to ensure there are no conflicts in identified areas.

- 3.5 Councillor Hassall proposed to add an additional recommendation to the Cabinet report, this recommendation was seconded by Councillor Mokbul and the Panel voted unanimously in favour of forwarding the proposed recommendation to the Cabinet;

6) to agree that the report and presentation be also presented to the Local Plan Advisory Group.

- 3.6 In response to a question from Councillor McAdam, it was clarified to the Panel that whilst the team did not have the knowledge of how many farmers were currently adopting a nature friendly farming approach, it was known that interest in and adoption of this approach was increasing. This was due to a generational shift in farmers and a resulting change of approach and attitude. It was anticipated that there would be a significant shift in support of this approach over the next decade.

- 3.7 Following a query from Councillor Hunt, the Panel heard that whilst it was not anticipated for the identified locations to change in the future, the detailed measures and actions which sit alongside the geology would be updated as appropriate.

- 3.8 The Panel heard, following questions from Councillor Alban and Councillor Shaw, that this evidence base would assist in assessing the Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) and would not be prohibiting development but identifying where BNG credits could be used. It was noted that developers may not be able to apply BNG credits to their own sites and whilst there was not a requirement to use those credits within the district of development, developers were penalised if that was invested away from the original site with the penalty increasing the further away the investment was made. It was noted that there was a process to be followed in spending these credits and that the priority was to be invested locally in the first instance. It was noted that the BNG credits were administered by the Council and that this was an emerging system. It was noted that a criteria to claim credits was a commitment to maintain the proposed project for 30 years. It was also advised that BNG credits were one element in achieving nature recovery and that many other actions would assist with the wider vision of developing this.

- 3.9 It was clarified, following a further question from Councillor Alban, that the definition of a minor amendment as used in Recommendation 4, was a common term used within reports to allow for adjustments or corrections to the detail of the documents. It was assured that this would not undermine the progress of the documents and would be keep the same intention and direction of the current report.
- 3.10 In response to a question from Councillor Hassall who enquired whether there were enough East West corridors, the Panel heard that this would be monitored as it would take time to assess how this would progress. It was noted that where focus could be made on increasing the population and resilience of species within specific areas, it was often found that, with time, this would then encourage the spread and development of that species in the surrounding areas.
- 3.11 Following the discussion, the Panel were informed that their comments would be added to the Cabinet report in order for Cabinet to make a decision upon the recommendations within the report, and additionally, the Panel request that the Cabinet consider adding the following recommendation to their report;
- 6) to agree that the report and presentation be also presented to the Local Plan Advisory Group.

4.0 KEY IMPACTS / RISKS

- 4.1 Huntingdonshire District Council's Planning department will utilise the Hunts Nature Network document to inform their planning policies around potential priority areas for designated through the statutory local plan to support improvement and influence strategic locations where off-site BNG should be provided.
- 4.2 The document will also provide evidence for a more comprehensive Green Infrastructure Strategy for Huntingdonshire, which will also be used to inform policies in the emerging Local Plan subject to coinciding timelines.
- 4.3 Local Plans prepared by Local Planning Authorities must be consistent with national policy, as set out in the [National Planning Policy Framework](#). Plan-makers should use local nature recovery strategies to inform their responses to the National Planning Policy Framework requirement for plans to protect and enhance biodiversity.
- 4.4 The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act is changing the planning system, leading to the Government issuing a revised draft National Planning Policy Framework for consultation closing on 24th September. These proposed updates will include how the plan-making process should weigh local nature recovery strategies. The Government will also guide local authorities on how they will be expected to comply with their duty regarding local nature recovery strategies through their planning functions.

- 4.5 Without an approved NRNH the Council's Planning Department lacks defined and detailed strategic guidance for its decision-making, along with being limited is its contribution to the developing LNRS.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The NRNH will influence and enable the councils work on legal protections to land or a legal duty to enhance the identified landscapes. The Local Planning Authority can use these priority natural landscapes as a consideration within the planning process.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 This report does not result in any direct resource requirements. However, it will encourage developers to consider the priorities within our natural landscape.
- 6.2 Huntingdonshire's priority landscapes will inform the local nature recovery strategy for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The formal adoption of the local nature recovery strategy, in early 2025, may require additional evidence to be commissioned as part of the update to the Local Plan 2036 to determine the suitability of development within or adjacent to the identified corridors. This may give rise to an additional cost through the engagement of specialists and/or planning officer time.

7.0 HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

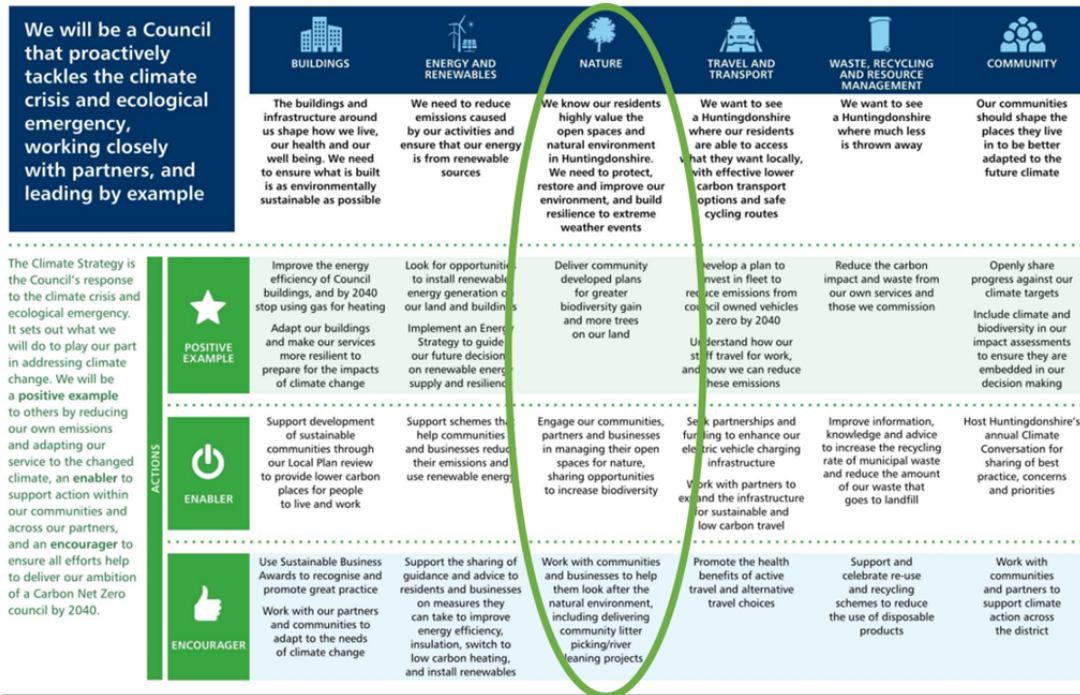
- 7.1 Supporting nature recovery to benefit biodiversity, our environment, and well-being is critical to delivering our Corporate Plan, as it is a vital component of the broader determinants of health that impact our District's long-term sustainability, health, and economy. The NRNH will also benefit Journey 3 (Health Embedded) in the Huntingdonshire Futures Strategy, as this is part of a more holistic approach to health through access to nature.
- 7.2 The Council adopted a Healthy Open Spaces Strategy in 2020, which set out our key priorities and actions for 2030 to ensure that open spaces are protected, that biodiversity and nature are enhanced, and that they support healthy and active communities. 90% of our residents confirmed that greenspaces improved mental health and wellbeing, with nature and wildlife being the most essential aspects of greenspaces.

8.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 Increasing biodiversity and natural capital is a key district-wide priority of the council's climate strategy, which was adopted in February 2023. Securing BNG in priority landscapes in the district will influence the delivery of the following identified actions in the climate strategy.
- 8.2 The council adopted its climate strategy in February 2023, including an action plan for short, medium and long-term actions. Following engagement

and an evidence review, the strategy identified increasing biodiversity and natural capital as one of the three district-wide climate priorities.

8.3 Nature is one of the three priority actions in the climate strategy. This project will deliver on the positive example aspect of the nature theme in the council’s climate strategy.



9.0 LINK TO THE CORPORATE PLAN, STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND/OR CORPORATE OBJECTIVES

9.1 Formally recognising Huntingdonshire’s Priority Natural Landscapes set out in this document will directly work towards the three key priorities set out in our Corporate Plan: improving residents’ quality of life, ensuring a better environment for future generations, and delivering core services efficiently.

9.1.1 Priority 1: Improving Quality of Life – This work focuses on increasing access to nature for residents by enhancing green spaces and promoting physical and mental well-being. By recognising the Priority Natural Landscapes the council will have developed its approach to Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) and managing public spaces. The Council aims to address the declared ecological crisis and provide a higher level of biodiversity across the district, ensuring residents benefit from a richer natural environment.

9.1.2 Priority 2: Creating a Better Huntingdonshire for Future Generations – This work emphasises long-term conservation efforts, lowering carbon emissions, and restoring critical habitats.

By recognising these Priority Natural Landscapes the council will be incorporating BNG principles into development planning to balance environmental responsibility with growth, ensuring that natural landscapes are recognised.

9.1.3 Priority 3: Doing Core Work Well – This work ensures that the Council meets its statutory obligations and provides high-value services while enabling private investment in biodiversity projects. This is achieved through efficient processes for BNG implementation, supporting community conservation initiatives, and advocating for regional and national policies that promote nature recovery. Partnerships with local stakeholders further strengthen these efforts, positioning Huntingdonshire as a leader in biodiversity conservation.

9.2 The full table detailing the links to the Corporate Strategy can be seen in Appendix A.

10.0 Summary

10.1 The recognition of Huntingdonshire's Priority Natural Landscapes is not designed to inhibit the development and growth of the district, but support it by compliment the vision of the Huntingdonshire Futures strategy, particularly in fostering community pride and environmental innovation. It aligns with the Council's Corporate Plan and Climate Strategy, applying a "green lens" to decision-making to improve biodiversity and help communities care for the environment.

10.2 While not a statutory planning document, Huntingdonshire's Priority Natural Landscapes will inform planning policy and contribute to the Local Nature Recovery Strategy which is being led by Cambridgeshire County Council on behalf of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority. This work aims to increase and restore nature, linking to the Council's environmental goals and ensuring a better quality of life for future generations by preserving and enhancing Huntingdonshire's natural assets.

11.0 LIST OF APPENDICES INCLUDED

- **Appendix A** Huntingdonshire Priorities linked to the Corporate Strategy
- **Appendix B** Huntingdonshire Interim Nature Recovery Network Draft Report
- **Appendix C** Acronym List

12.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Draft Nature Recovery Network for Huntingdonshire

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Appendix

Appendix A

	Priority 1: Improving quality of life for local people	Priority 2: Creating a better Huntingdonshire for future generations.	Priority 3: Doing our core work well.
	Improving the quality of life for local people	Creating a better Huntingdonshire for future generations - Lowering carbon emissions.	Deliver good quality, high value-for-money services with good control and compliance with statutory obligations.

<p>DO</p>	<p>We will increase the levels of biodiversity in the identified priority areas in the district, through increased private investment, as a result of BNG. This will result in residents having access to a greater level of nature.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Implementation: Actively implement BNG principles in all council-led development projects, ensuring that any habitat loss is compensated by creating or enhancing natural habitats, thus improving the local environment. • Green Spaces Enhancement: Directly manage and enhance public green spaces, parks, and natural reserves to provide residents with access to nature and promote physical and mental well-being. 	<p>By identifying priority landscapes and contributing to the Local Nature Recovery Strategy we will ensure that the nature in given the best chance to thrive. This increase will be achieved by enhancing areas such as wood and shrubland and creating new habitats. These will have added carbon sequestration benefits. There are well-documented social and economic benefits of accessing nature.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-term Conservation Projects: Initiate and manage long-term conservation projects to restore and preserve critical habitats, ensuring their protection for future generations. • Sustainable Planning: Incorporate BNG and LNRS principles into the council's long-term planning strategies, ensuring that future development is sustainable and environmentally responsible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efficient BNG Processes: Streamline the processes for assessing and implementing BNG in council projects to ensure efficiency and effectiveness in meeting biodiversity goals. • Compliance and Monitoring: Establish robust systems for monitoring and reporting on BNG and LNRS outcomes, ensuring transparency and accountability.
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<p>ENABLE</p>	<p>We are enabling investment to through BNG and the LNRS to achieve significant contributions towards enhancing nature and contributing to nature climate change mitigations and adaptations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for Community Initiatives: Provide grants and resources for local groups and organisations engaged in conservation projects that align with BNG and the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS). • Educational Programs: Facilitate educational programs and workshops to raise residents' awareness of the importance of biodiversity and nature recovery. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovation in Conservation: Support research and pilot projects that explore innovative methods for biodiversity conservation and habitat restoration. • Youth Engagement: Develop programs to engage young people in conservation efforts, fostering a sense of responsibility and connection to their natural environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity Building: Provide training and resources for council staff and local stakeholders to enhance their ability to implement and support BNG and LNRS initiatives. • Community Involvement: Foster a participatory approach by involving local communities in planning and decision-making processes related to biodiversity and nature recovery projects.
<p>INFLUENCE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy Advocacy: Advocate for policies at the regional and national levels that support BNG and LNRS, ensuring that these frameworks are 	<p>Regional Leadership: Position Huntingdonshire as a leader in biodiversity conservation by sharing best practices and successes in BNG and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard Setting: Set high standards for BNG and LNRS practices within the council's operations and projects,

	<p>integrated into broader planning and development regulations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Partnerships: Collaborate with local businesses, developers, and non-profits to promote and implement BNG and LNRS in their projects, ensuring a collective effort to enhance biodiversity.	<p>LNRS implementation with neighbouring districts and councils.</p>	<p>serving as a model for other local authorities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Knowledge Sharing: Promote the exchange of knowledge and experiences in BNG and LNRS through workshops, conferences, and publications, contributing to the broader understanding and implementation of these strategies.
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