

Natural Cambridgeshire Delivery Plan

Background

In 2019 Natural Cambridgeshire launched its ambition to Double Nature across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to deliver a greatly enhanced environment where nature and people thrive and businesses prosper.

We now want to boost the delivery of this ambition, recognising that nature-based solutions will play a crucial role in our combined efforts to address the challenges of our climate and biodiversity emergencies. In addition, a thriving natural world and environment will improve the overall attractiveness of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough as a place to live, work, play and invest.

To take this forward we have set ourselves seven key objectives over the period 2020-23, as follows

1. Encourage and measure the enhancement and creation of habitats that help to **Double Nature**
2. Working with all statutory bodies to ensure that **the Doubling Nature target** is recognised in key policies, including climate change policies and Local Plans
3. Work in partnership with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority to progress a **Doubling Nature Investment Plan** to engage forward-thinking local businesses and investors in creating a healthier natural world for to the benefit of both business and wider society
4. Launching, promoting and encouraging (through a recognition scheme) implementation of a **Doubling Nature Pledge** that will offer simple steps that all organisations and individuals can take to create new, and enhance existing, habitats for nature
5. Promoting best practice to ensure that all development contributes significantly to the achievement of **net biodiversity gain** including through the launch of a **Developing with Nature Awards Scheme**
6. Increasing the amount of **farmland that benefits wildlife and carbon storage and therefore people** by co-ordinating the promotion of good environmental farming practices
7. Creating a new framework **for promoting healthy lifestyles** through increased access to nature in our existing and new parks and green open spaces through the work of the Future Parks project.

In addition, we want to establish Natural Cambridgeshire as a self-funding Charitable Interest Organisation, that is recognised by all partners – statutory, private sector and community organisations – as the key strategic organisation across Peterborough and Cambridge for the promotion of a better, healthier, more biodiverse environment.

At present, Natural Cambridgeshire is an unincorporated body, with no legal structures or bank accounts. It receives much valued administrative support from Cambridgeshire County Council and some financial support from its key partners on an annual basis.

Delivery Plan

Natural Cambridgeshire wants to accelerate the delivery of the objectives outlined above. Some of this work will be delivered by the partners themselves. But we also recognise the need for external

support to drive forward key aspects of this work. We are looking for a consultant or organisation who can assist with that task, leading on some projects and helping co-ordinate the work of the partners to deliver others.

The specific outcomes we are looking to achieve are as follows

Administrative

1. Establish Natural Cambridgeshire as a CIO with its own governance documents and bank accounts.
2. Develop a financial model for how Natural Cambridgeshire can become financially independent over a three-year period
3. Work with Cambridgeshire County Council to ensure the smooth administration of the partnership over this period and create and embed best practice for the effective functioning of the partnership.

Objectives

1. Encourage and measure the creation of new habitats that help to **Double Nature**
 - a. Co-ordinate the development of a clear and easy-to-use/understand method of measuring progress against the Doubling Nature target
 - b. Co-ordinate the development of a 'vision' document that explains how the five landscape scale projects will come together and the benefits that will bring for nature and for people, using the John Clare Countryside document as a model.¹ⁱ
2. Working with all statutory bodies to ensure that **the Doubling Nature target** is recognised in key policies, including climate change policies and Local Plans
 - a. Create a stakeholder engagement plan and overall communication framework for Natural Cambridgeshire to help achieve this objective, including to build support for the proposed UNESCO Biosphere
 - b. Create and deliver a quarterly newsletter and regular website updates to ensure wider understanding of the partnership's work
 - c. Co-ordinate responses to relevant consultations both across Peterborough and Cambridgeshire and also the area of the Oxford-Milton Keynes-Cambridge arc
 - d. Represent the LNP as required at key meetings
3. Developing a **Doubling Nature Investment Plan** which will address climate change and the nature crisis by engaging forward-thinking local businesses and investors who recognize their dependency on a healthy natural world for delivery of significant benefits to business and society
 - a. Working with delivery partners to develop the detail of the five landscape scale projects, the corridors that connect them and other nature recovery projects, including urban parks, so that we have a number of 'oven-ready' projects at a variety of levels of scale ready for funding as and when it becomes available

4. Launching and promoting a **Doubling Nature Pledge** that will offer simple steps that all organisations and individuals can take to create new, and enhance existing, habitats for nature
 - a. Develop a Doubling Nature Pledge and **launch this, and other initiatives at a Doubling Nature summit to be held in early autumn**, bringing together all aspects of the partnership's work across all key audiences
 - b. Develop an award scheme or other recognition process for those who meet their pledge targets.
 - c. Develop and pilot a Parish Action Plan and toolkit that can enable local communities to incorporate Doubling Nature in their Neighbourhood Plans and Landscape Assessments.
5. Promoting best practice to ensure that all development contributes significantly to the achievement of **net biodiversity gain** including through the launch of a Developing with Nature Awards scheme
 - a. Support the work of the Developing with Nature forum to ensure increased participation by developers and the creation and launch of the Awards scheme (at the summit outlined above)
6. Increasing the amount of **farmland that benefits wildlife and nature based carbon storage** by promoting good environmental farming practices
 - a. Develop a framework for coordinated engagement with landowners and farmers (potentially working with the Nature Friendly Farming Network) to ensure that take up of agri-environment schemes and the future ELMS optimises wildlife and carbon sequestration at a landscape scale alongside other public goods.
7. Creating a new framework **for promoting healthy lifestyles** through increased access to nature in our existing and new parks and green open spaces through the work of the Future Parks project.
 - a. Mapping our public open space network and creating a uniform set of standards for quality and provision to address open space inequality.
 - b. Undertake a natural capital assessment of open space and an associated natural capital investment plan, to support the funding of public open spaces and peoples benefits from them.
 - c. Review learning from the national Future Parks Programme and locally to pilot approaches to healthy parks linking to social prescribing Healthy New Towns
 - d. Establish a Parks forum for practitioners and local people to support community ownership of Parks and better knowledge and resource sharing.
 - e. Work collaboratively with partners on Future Parks, Hunts District Council's Healthy Open Spaces Strategy, Healthy New Towns Initiative and the Cambridgeshire GI Standards Pilot Project.
 - f. Work collaboratively with Public Health to provide input into the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Health and Wellbeing Strategy consultation
 - g. Identify where the LNP can help with delivery/promotion of actions within the new HWB Strategy

<p>Administrative</p> <p>Establish Natural Cambridgeshire as a CIO with its own governance documents and bank accounts.</p> <p>Develop a financial model for how Natural Cambridgeshire can become financially independent over a three-year period</p> <p>Ensure the smooth administration of the partnership over this period and create and embed best practice for the effective functioning of the partnership.</p>	
<p>Objective One</p> <p>Encourage and measure the creation of new habitats that help to Double Nature</p> <p>Co-ordinate the development of a clear and easy-to-use/understand method of measuring progress against the Doubling Nature target</p> <p>Co-ordinate the development of a 'vision' document that explains how the five landscape scale projects will come together and the benefits that will bring for nature and for people, using the John Clare Countryside document as a model.</p>	
<p>Objective Two</p> <p>Working with all statutory bodies to ensure that the Doubling Nature target is recognised in key policies, including climate change policies and Local Plans</p> <p>Create a stakeholder engagement plan and overall communication framework for Natural Cambridgeshire to help achieve this objective, including to build support for the proposed UNESCO Biosphere</p> <p>Create and deliver a quarterly newsletter and regular website updates to ensure wider understanding of the partnership's work</p> <p>Co-ordinate responses to relevant consultations both across Peterborough and Cambridgeshire and also the area of the Oxford-Milton Keynes-Cambridge arc</p> <p>Represent the LNP as required at key meetings</p>	

<p>Objective Three</p> <p>Developing a Doubling Nature Investment Plan which will address climate change and the nature crisis by engaging forward-thinking local businesses and investors who recognize their dependency on a healthy natural world for delivery of significant benefits to business and society</p> <p>Working with delivery partners to develop the detail of the five landscape scale projects, the corridors that connect them and other nature recovery projects, including urban parks, so that we have a number of ‘oven-ready’ projects at a variety of levels of scale ready for funding as and when it becomes available</p>	
<p>Objective Four</p> <p>Launching and promoting a Doubling Nature Pledge that will offer simple steps that all organisations and individuals can take to create new, and enhance existing, habitats for nature</p> <p>Develop a Doubling Nature Pledge and launch this, and other initiatives at a Doubling Nature summit to be held in early autumn, bringing together all aspects of the partnership’s work across all key audiences</p> <p>Develop an award scheme or other recognition process for those who meet their pledge targets.</p> <p>Develop and pilot a Parish Action Plan and toolkit that can enable local communities to incorporate Doubling Nature in their Neighbourhood Plans and Landscape Assessments.</p>	
<p>Objective Five</p> <p>Promoting best practice to ensure that all development contributes significantly to the achievement of net biodiversity gain including through the launch of a Developing with Nature Awards scheme</p> <p>Support the work of the Developing with Nature forum to ensure increased participation by developers and the creation and launch of the Awards scheme (at the summit outlined above)</p>	
<p>Objective Six</p> <p>Increasing the amount of farmland that benefits wildlife and nature based carbon storage by promoting good environmental farming practices</p>	

Develop a framework for coordinated engagement with landowners and farmers (potentially working with the Nature Friendly Farming Network) to ensure that take up of agri-environment schemes and the future ELMS optimises wildlife and carbon sequestration at a landscape scale alongside other public goods.	
<p>Objective Seven</p> <p>Creating a new framework for promoting healthy lifestyles through increased access to nature in our existing and new parks and green open spaces through the work of the Future Parks project.</p>	

ⁱⁱ <http://langdyke.org.uk/2019/09/11/vision-for-clare-country/>

The John Clare vision document sets out the overall vision, aims, objectives, background, key deliverables and supporters of the John Clare project and the proposed target species for public engagement. The vision is:

As residents, businesses, parish councils, landowners, farmers and visitors we want the countryside around us to be an area where nature is at the heart of our lives. Where swifts and swallows are a central feature of our summer evenings, where otters continue to enthral people as they play in the Maxey Cut, where bees and other insects thrive, not decline, and where there are far more, not less, ponds, meadows, wild flowers, hedgerows and trees.

And where people can walk or cycle out in safety and tranquillity across this thriving countryside, enjoying the sights and sounds and even the silence of the natural world; enjoying dark skies and cherishing the heritage around them – both natural and man-made. That sounds like a countryside worth living in. But it is a countryside under threat and increasing pressure from housing growth and traffic and sadly even from lack of appreciation.

In recent years, despite many successes on and off the network of nature reserves, there have been significant declines in many key species, particularly farmland and woodland birds, such as lapwing, yellowhammer, nightingale, spotted flycatcher and woodcock; and decreases in the number of mammals such as hedgehog and hare and the variety of butterflies and moths.