

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Local Nature Recovery Strategy Consultation

Closes 11 Sep 2025

Opened 18 Jul 2025

Contact

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough LNRS Team

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Overview

Welcome to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Nature Recovery Strategy consultation survey

We are pleased to announce that the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) consultation is live from 18 July to 11 September 2025. This is your chance to review our Local Nature Recovery Strategy documentation and local habitat map with opportunities for creating and enhancing nature within the region.

Most of the survey questions are optional and the survey should take around 10 - 20 minutes to complete depending on the amount of information you wish to share.

Why your views matter

The Local Nature Recovery Strategy describes our most precious habitats, animals and plants in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Our plan is to make these places bigger, better managed and more joined up to promote nature recovery.

The strategy sets out actions to take for nature recovery. It also shows places that we think have the best opportunity to do this.

• **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.
- The **Summary document** provides a high-level summary of Part 1 and Part 2 above.
- Supporting documents set out the methodology, process taken to develop the LNRS and other supporting information you may find helpful.

We suggest reading this documentation first, in particular Part 1 and Part 2 of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy. However, if you want you can go straight to what the strategy is recommending near you by looking at the local habitat map online at https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/a1963a7dc51c4c259a8d19832b63f461. 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.

Once live, you can leave your comments via the 'Online Survey' link below. 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.

How to share your views

- You can send this completed survey back to us by emailing us using our localnaturerecoverystrategy@cambridgeshire.gov.uk mailbox.
- Alternatively, you can return a printed survey to: The Biodiversity Team, New Shire Hall, Emery Crescent, Enterprise Campus, Alconbury Weald, PE28 4YE
- The survey is also available to complete online at https://yourvoice.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/lnrs/consultation

Visit your local library

View the draft strategy and share your feedback in person (available from 22 July 2025)

Relevant documents and links

Local Nature Recovery Strategy - Part 1 and 2

Local Nature Recovery Strategy Part 1

Local Nature Recovery Strategy Part 2

Summary document

Supporting Document 1 - Prioritisation and Mapping Methodology

Supporting Document 2 - Habitat Opportunity Modelling Methodology

Supporting Document 3 - Stakeholder Engagement Summary

Supporting Document 4 - Longlist of Priority Habitats

Supporting Document 5 - Priority Species List

Supporting Document 6 - Case Studies of Nature Recovery in Action

Supporting Document 7 - National and Local Context

<u>Supporting Document 8 - Relevant Legislation, Policy and Strategies</u>

Supporting Document 9 - Local Nature Recovery Strategy and the Planning System

'Areas that are of particular importance' static map

'Areas that could become of particular importance' static map

'Grassland actions' static map

'Mosaic actions' static map

'Rivers, streams and drains actions' static map

'Site-specific actions' static map

'Urban actions' static map

'Wetland actions' static map

'Woodland actions' static map

Local Nature Recovery Strategy Local Habitat Map

Story Map - Local Habitat Map

Introduction

Data Privacy Notice

This consultation is to share the draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy for the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough area with the wider public to gauge their support and feedback for each section. We may share you information with our consultants, our partners in this consultation (such as Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority, Natural Cambridgeshire and Natural England) and with the council analysis team.

Details of responses will be published and included in public reports. You do not have to give us any personal information, but if you do so this will be held securely in accordance with data protection legislation and only used as part of considering the consultation responses. We will only store it for 12 months after the consultation results have been analysed and the consultation report published.

1. Are you responding as a/an:

We will only publish the names of businesses, groups and representatives, rather than individuals, alongside their response in our public reports.

[Please select one item only]
□individual
⊠community group
□developer / house builder
□elected representative
□environmental organisation
\Box farmer / landowner
□registered charity
\Box representative of a business or group
□special interest group
□town or parish council
\Box utilities or infrastructure provider
□other

If other, please specify:
If applicable, please state the name of your organisation, group or equivalent below:
Cam Valley Forum
2. Where do you live?
This helps us understand whether our consultation has reached people in all areas of the combined authority.
[Please select one item only]
□ Cambridge City
□ East Cambridgeshire
□Fenland
□Huntingdonshire
☐ Peterborough City
□ South Cambridgeshire
□Outside of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough
If outside of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, please specify:
Cam Valley Forum covers all areas within the Cam catchment – this question does not really have an option to reply that is suitable. CVF's response relates specifically to the parts of the LNRS that cover rivers and streams, with their associated wetland and riverine habitats, and is largely restricted to CVF's experience in the area of the Cam catchment.
3. How did you find out about this survey?
This helps us to understand where outreach for this survey is having the best impact.
[Please select one item only]
□Bluesky
□Cambridgeshire.gov.uk website
□ Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority website
□ Cambridgeshire County Council or partner email

□County or District councillor
\square Environmental organisation or newsletter (such as Wildlife Trust etc.)
□Facebook
□ Friends / family
□Instagram
□Library
□Linkedin
□Local community news item
□NFU, CLA or other faming organisation
□ Natural Cambridgeshire website
□ Parish or Town councillor
□Tik Tok
□X (formerly Twitter)
□Other
If other, please specify:
A wide range of the above sources through our different members

Overall Strategy

This section is about the document as a whole (i.e. Part 1 and Part 2 of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy), and how useful you will find it for taking actions to improve nature. You can skip to the end of the consultation survey after answering these questions or choose to answer in more detail about the rest of the document, including the habitat and species priorities, and local habitat mapping.

We are aware that some documents - such as PDFs - are not fully accessible and may not work as expected when using assistive technology. If you are unable to use a document, please contact us and we will send you an accessible alternative.

4. Do you agree or disagree that the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) clearly sets out how to improve nature recovery in the region?

Please select one item only]	
∃Strongly agree	
☑Agree	
□Neutral	
□Disagree	
□Strongly disagree	

Please provide any comments below in support of your answer:

We think the LNRS is potentially a useful document and in broad terms it responds to the government's requirements for the structure and approach of LNRS documents. However, CVF has some concerns.

It is not immediately clear how the three documents (Summary, Part 1 and Part 2) relate to each other, nor how different sections of Part 2 relate. In particular the links between the 11 strategic aims and the subsequent actions for priority habitats and species are not obvious. We think that some of the other draft and published LNRS's have a much clearer lay-out and will be easier for people to use. We recommend that the team look at some of these; for example the Leicestershire LNRS list the strategic aims very clearly; the Dorset LNRS is good on actions.

The current summary may be a temporary document for the purpose of the consultation but if one is produced for the final strategy (and we recommend that there is one), it should outline the structure and the contents of the two parts of the LNRS, with lists of the strategic aims, priority habitats and species, and proposed actions and an explanation of

how they relate. The current summary starts with actions that individuals, farmers etc can undertake, but these do not obviously appear in Part 2 – if these are key components of the strategy they need to be more clearly incorporated.

We have several comments on the strategic aims:

- 1. We question whether the 'Lawton Principles' should be listed as an 'aim' since, as implied in their name, these are principles. We agree that these are the principles that the strategic aims should be based on.
- 2. We agree strongly with the 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" but are unclear what is meant by the phrase "collaborate with cross-boundary partners" and feel this needs rewording. Much of the work required, as demonstrated in the later section on actions, goes beyond 'collaboration' It requires actual implementation of action by specific organisations and agencies, not only 'cross-boundary partners'. Such vague wording occurs several times throughout the LNRS and we strongly recommend that the document is carefully edited.
- 3. The strategic aim relating to 'doubling nature', in the context of the general purpose of the LNRS would seem to be of a much higher order than some of the other strategic aims and perhaps should be identified more clearly? It is presumably a fundamental aspect of the overall proposed nature recovery?
- 4. We would like to see the strategic aim on 'Water quality resources and resources' (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) more strongly worded in relation to the component on 'water scarcity' given that options for addressing this are now broadly known and the primary requirement is for stronger political will to introduce the necessary regulatory changes and for greater public understanding of the value of water as a fundamental resource. It might be clearer if this single strategic aim were divided into two separate aims— one addressing water quality (pollution issues) and one addressing water quantity (drought, water supply and flooding issues).
- 5. We think there is a missing strategic aim along the lines of "Ensuring that in designated nature reserves and protected wildlife sites, existing biodiversity is protected and maintained." There is a risk that, with the focus on nature recovery and measures such as BNG, attention will be diverted from the fundamental need to protect known biodiversity areas, many of which are designated sites but inadequately managed, and thus losing nature here.

- 6. We think that the wording and fundamental intention of the strategic aim with the heading 'Development' needs further discussion and thought, given that the plans and proposals for the development of the Cambridge area and the well-evidenced threat that these pose to our nature and water resources. There is little on how the development agenda for the region can be accommodated without affecting the success of the LNRS.
- 7. Since, under government requirements, the LNRS is to play a key role in guiding successful implementation of BNG it would be useful to see a specific strategic aim related to this instead of the rather weakly worded bullet under the 'development' strategic aim (supporting biodiversity net gain (BNG) policy, encouraging 20% as a minimum, where possible.). The government advice on LNRS implementation states that "Development projects that create, enhance or recover habitat in locations which are mapped in a local nature recovery strategy will get a higher biodiversity value in the biodiversity metric than they would in other locations. This is because they are in a more strategic location for nature recovery." However, as is well documented, there are risks associated with the implementation of the BNG concept. It therefore might be wise to have a strategic aim that recognises that sites identified in the LNRS will have a higher BNG value, and that therefore, where such sites are used for BNG, they must be correctly managed and monitored long-term to ensure that there is a real recovery of nature.

We would like to see more on data storage and accessibility and on how monitoring results and evidence can be made available to the public. In Cambridgeshire, as elsewhere in the country, this is difficult with numerous barriers to data access, and a number of issues with data gaps and data quality. As noted nationally, this calls into question the evidence base for priorities and measures.

The document is difficult to read on screen which is probably how most people will look at it. This is perhaps due to its structure as a report, and the considerable 'over-design' of photos, boxes, symbols, different types of heading etc. One example of the difficulty in developing a quick understanding of content is the section on 'Strategic aims' of the LNRS in Part 2: the lay-out with alternating headings and icons makes it difficult to see quickly exactly what is in the list of strategic aims – a numbered or bulleted list would greatly help the reader. The single word titles of the strategic aims do not always reflect the actual aims – it might be better to delete these and perhaps highlight or use bold text for key words. The strategic aims should also all be worded in such a way that they are clearly 'aims' – several are worded as 'actions', starting with a verb, others (e.g. environmentally friendly farming) are worded more as a general 'wish'.

The apparent random use of 'Did you know' boxes are also confusing and do not seem to be particularly relevant or useful. They could perhaps be reduced in number, or restricted to the summary?

Further survey questions are available for those users who wish to comment in greater detail on the rest of the document, including the habitat and species priorities, and local habitat mapping.

Alternatively, users can skip these questions and go straight to the 'Further Comments' section.	

Habitat Priorities and Actions

This section focuses on the priorities we have set out for improving habitats within our region, as well as actions to help achieve these aims.

These actions are mapped out on our local habitat map with opportunities for creating or enhancing nature, along with already existing nature sites.

We have divided our region into several different priority habitats, such as woodlands or wetlands. You can find the full list of habitat priorities and actions in the 'Priorities for nature recovery' chapter within Part 2 of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

5. Do you agree or disagree with the priorities for the habitats below?

[Please select one item only per row]

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Woodlands	⊠				
Grasslands	\boxtimes				
Wetlands	\boxtimes				
Rivers, streams, and drains	\boxtimes				
Habitat mosaics	\boxtimes				
Urban landscapes	\boxtimes				
Farmed landscapes	\boxtimes				

If there are any priorities you believe should be added, please say what these are and why:

CVF agrees with the habitat priorities selected. In particular, we are very pleased to see the statements 'All rivers and their floodplains have been selected as local priorities for nature recovery as they provide landscape-scale corridors and can deliver a wide range of other natural benefits.", and that habitat priorities include rivers, chalk streams, ditches and wetlands.

If there are any priorities you believe should be removed, please say which ones and why:	

6. Do you agree or disagree with the actions for each habitat below?

[Please select one item only per row]

	Strongly	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly
	agree				disagree
Woodlands					
Grasslands					
Wetlands		\boxtimes			
Rivers,		\boxtimes			
streams, and					
drains					
Habitat					
mosaics					
Urban					
landscapes					
Farmed					
landscapes					
Site-specific					
(in priority					
landscapes)					

If there are any actions you believe should be added, please say what these are and why:

In relation to wetlands and to rivers/streams/drains, we agree broadly with the actions proposed but, as with the strategic aims section, the lay-out makes it difficult for the reader to follow them. Given that there are different types of action, combined with a numbering system, it would perhaps be easier to visualise them if they are arranged as a table. Many of the proposed actions seem very general in nature, or are repeated under different headings. For example, the action "Establish natural or semi-natural buffer zones 50 metres wide adjacent to all" (an action that we strongly support), appears as RD1A for rivers, as RD3A for chalk streams, is referred to (RD4B) under fen main drains, but does not feature under 'rivers and stream (all types).

In general, we think the actions section could be more clearly laid out – many are well understood best practices that are certainly needed, but this section, as designed, will be difficult to use in practice. Many actions are worded in very general terms, and it is unclear how progress would be measured. Actions are categorised as different types (e.g. enhance, create, unmapped, supporting) but despite the brief explanation of these, the differences between them are unclear and this categorisation creates an additional layer of confusing headings. We question whether it is necessary and suggest that it is removed.

In the section "Rivers, streams and drains priorities, actions and supporting actions", we would like to see a specific action relating to support and fund the preparation and implementation of Catchment Plans for all rivers as appropriate in the region – the CCP for example is embarking on one for the Cam and its tributaries.

If there are any actions you believe should be removed, please say which ones and why:

Species Recovery Priorities and Actions
144 species have been identified as both locally and nationally important by expert stakeholders and the wider public, as those that are most valued in the area.
For 69 of these species, general habitat actions may not be sufficient, and so specific actions to support their recovery have been identified, which are included in the 'Priorities for nature recovery' chapter within Part 2 the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.
7. Do you agree or disagree with the species included in the priority species list?
[Please select one item only]
□Strongly agree
□Agree
□Neutral
□Disagree
□Strongly disagree
If there are any species you believe should be added, please say what these are and why:
If there are any species you believe should be removed, please say which ones and why:
8. Do you agree or disagree with the actions set out in the priority species list?
[Please select one item only]
□Strongly agree
□Agree
□Neutral
□Disagree

□Strongly disagree
If there are any actions you believe should be added, please say what these are and why:
If there are any actions you believe should be removed, please say which ones and why:

Local Habitat Map

The local habitat map shows where the habitat actions could take place within the region to most benefit our most valuable habitats and species.

The mapping consists of two main sections, 'areas of particular importance for biodiversity' and 'areas that could become of particular importance for biodiversity', with areas mapped for specific habitats.

'Areas of particular importance for biodiversity (APIB)' are those existing **core local nature sites** within the region. They include designated and protected sites and local wildlife sites.

'Areas that could become of particular importance for biodiversity (ACB)' are **opportunity areas** where actions to restore habitats are mapped to achieve the best outcomes for biodiversity and the wider environment. Opportunity areas are not on the pathway to become designated sites.

Local habitat map

The map is available directly from the following url: https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/a1963a7dc51c4c259a8d19832b63f461

You are able to select the relevant layers using the 'Layers' button at the top-right of the map. You can find further information on how to use the map by selecting the 'Help' button, also in the top-right.

If unable to access the interactive map you are able to download static versions of the maps from https://yourvoice.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/lnrs/consultation. Alternatively, please contact localnaturerecoverystrategy@cambridgeshire.gov.uk and we will be able to send you these files. Printed versions of the maps will be available to view at libraries within the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough region.

Please note that the Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) within the APIB mapping is not visible beyond a scale of 1:200,000. Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) are not publicly accessible. Any individual seeking access to these sites must contact the relevant landowner directly. For further information, please contact the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Environmental Record Centre (CPERC).

Designated sites

The APIB layer includes the following designated sites:

- All sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), within the meaning of Part 2 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
- All National Nature Reserves declared in accordance with section 35 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
- All Ramsar sites, within the meaning of section 37A of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

- All European sites within the meaning of regulation 8 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (S.I. 2017/1012)
- All Local Nature Reserves in the strategy area provided under section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949.
- All existing 'Local Wildlife Sites' defined as all such sites classified as 'County Wildlife Sites' or 'City Wildlife Sites' as identified by the Local Wildlife Sites partnership and provided for in Local Plans or similar planning policy documents.
- All areas of irreplaceable habitats, as defined by The Biodiversity Gain Requirements (Irreplaceable Habitats) Regulations 2024.

Areas that could become of particular importance

This includes the following layers:

- Woodland actions
- Grassland actions
- Wetland actions
- River, streams, and drains actions
- Habitat mosaics
- Urban landscape actions
- Actions relating to specific sites
- Areas that could become of particular importance for biodiversity (this merges the above layers into a single layer)

9. The 'Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity (APIB)' map layer shows existing designated nature sites. If you have any corrections please use the comment box below:

Despite the statement that all local and city wildlife sites are shown, these are only visible when looking at the map at a low level of magnitude. They disappear when zooming in to see details which then gives a very false impression of the actions needed. This is particularly the case in the example of Cherry Hinton Brook, where on a key section of the brook most at risk from proposed development, four City Wildlife Sites are not visible when the map is enlarged (City Wildlife Site 48: The Spinney and Hayster Open Space; City Wildlife Site 17: Coldham's Lane Old Landfill Site; City Wildlife Site 40: Norman Cement Pits; City Wildlife Site 18: CU Officer Training Corps Pit). For this part of the brook, the existing and potential biodiversity appears to significantly undervalued.

10. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the Local Habitat Map accurately captures the 'areas that could become of particular importance' for biodiversity?

[Please select one Item only]
□Strongly agree
⊠Agree
⊠Neutral
□Disagree
□Strongly disagree
Please provide any comments below in support of your answer:
We have not been able to review the map in detail but are concerned that information may have been omitted. We hope the 2020 South Cambridgeshire District Council and
Cambridge City Council Greater Cambridge Green Infrastructure Opportunity Mapping report
(https://consultations.greatercambridgeplanning.org/sites/gcp/files/2021-08/greater-
cambridge-green-infrastructure-opportunity-mapping-baseline-report-nov2020.pdf)
was used, as it contains a wealth of information and was subject to a public consultation
less than 5 years ago. Furthermore, there has been considerable work on many of the
watercourses by local organisations, the water companies (WINEP activities) etc. There

In relation to Cherry Hinton Brook, the springhead Giants Grave and section of the brook running from this to Cherry Hinton Hall has been omitted.

would be value in organised discussions with relevant individuals and bodies to obtain a

contribute to nature recovery, before the map becomes a working tool for developers and

more accurate picture of the current situation and what is needed in the future to

The following questions, open to all, may be particularly relevant to farmers / landowners who would like to see an area of their land included or removed from the mapping.

You may also use this section to leave any comments you may have on particular areas of the mapping.

If not relevant to you, you may skip to the 'Further Comments' section.

BNG site identification.

Selecting areas to add

If there are any particular areas you would like to see included within the local habitat map, please download or print off a version of the map (see 'Relevant Documents and Links') and mark the relevant area, including the map in your submitted response.

Alternatively, please describe your proposed location(s) in detail in the subsequent comment box, so that the location(s) could be easily identifiable on a map.

Please note, any suggested area does not guarantee its inclusion, and must be compatible with the evaluation criteria as set out in Supporting Document 2 – Habitat Opportunity Modelling Methodology.

Strate	11. If you selected any areas to be added to the Local Nature Recovery Strategy, please provide more details below, including the reasons why they should be included:							

Selecting areas to remove

If there are any particular areas you would like to see removed from the local habitat map or would like to further comment on, please download or print off a version of the map (see 'Relevant Documents and Links') and mark the relevant area, including the map in your submitted response.

Alternatively, please describe your location(s) in detail in the subsequent comment box, so that the location(s) could be easily identifiable on a map.

Please note, any suggested area does not guarantee its removal, and will be reviewed on an individual basis. For any land identified as a potential habitat opportunity, this does not mean you are obliged to carry out any of the recommended actions for that land.

		h your re		

Further Comments

.3. If you would ere:	like to make any further comments, please provide them
4. Are you happ	y for us to contact you regarding this consultation?
	ch regarding any request for information based on your feedback given
Please provide your	email address:
Yes. suewells1212	

About You

Demographic questions help identify specific needs and preferences of different groups within the population, ensuring that the strategy is accessible and relevant to everyone.

What is your age?
[Please select one item only]
□15 and under
□16-24
□25-34
□35-44
□45-54
□55-64
□65-74
□75 and over
□ Prefer not to say
Do you consider yourself to have a disability, impairment or long term health condition?
[Please select one item only]
□Yes
□No
□ Prefer not to say
What gender would you describe yourself as?
[Please select one item only]
□Female
□Male
□ Prefer not to say

□ Prefer to self-describe
If you prefer to self-describe, please give the term you use to describe your gender:
What is your ethnicity?
[Please select one item only]
□ Asian or Asian British
□ Black, Black British, Caribbean or African
☐Mixed or multiple ethnic groups
□White
□Other ethnic group
□ Prefer not to say