



Committee Name: Climate and environment emergency executive panel

Committee Date: 28/06/2022

Report Title: Biodiversity Strategy 2022 – 2032 pre consultation discussion

Portfolio:	Cllr Giles - Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing
Report from:	Head of Strategy, Engagement and Culture
Wards:	All Wards
OPEN PUBLIC ITEM	

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update the committee on the work underway to develop a Biodiversity Strategy, and to seek the committee's views on the draft.

Recommendation:

To provide views on the draft strategy.

Policy Framework

The Council has five corporate priorities, which are:

- People live independently and well in a diverse and safe city.
- Norwich is a sustainable and healthy city.
- Norwich has the infrastructure and housing it needs to be a successful city.
- The city has an inclusive economy in which residents have equal opportunity to flourish.
- Norwich City Council is in good shape to serve the city.

This report meets the Norwich is a sustainable and healthy city objective: priority to protect and invest in our parks, green spaces and biodiversity.

Report Details

1. Norwich City Council has declared Climate and Ecological Emergencies and a key element of our response to these is the development of a new Biodiversity Strategy.
2. Since the council's previous biodiversity strategy was published significant efforts have been made to improve biodiversity across our city, by the council, partner organisations and by committed work from passionate communities and residents. This has included work to improve the quality of our eight local nature reserves and wildlife sites, namely: Green Flag Status for Eaton Park, Waterloo Park and Mousehold Heath; and management plans in place for those sites with prioritised habitats and species. £300,000 in CIL funding was secured to invest in the creation of new habitats at Kett's Heights to boost biodiversity.
3. At Mousehold Heath a grant of £30,600 from secured from Natural England for Higher Level Stewardship Agreement to improve the quantity and quality of heathland and acid grassland, nationally important habitats. This work has led to the identification of: a number of scarce and threatened bee and wasp species; a number of butterfly species, such as small copper and green hairstreak; and a number of moth species, including true lover's knott, heath rustic, and beautiful yellow underwing. The installation of bentonite clay linings at the Vinegar Pond and the Mustard Pond have seen a good number of dragonfly and damselfly species prosper, including the Norfolk Hawker, a nationally threatened and scarce Red Data book species.
4. The city has a unique and diverse natural environment, with green spaces, moorland, parks, woodland, allotments and waterways. The city's tree canopy cover is higher than the national average¹ with generous levels of open spaces, two river valleys, extensive undeveloped flood meadows and marshes and other significant habitats and species, so we are building from a positive base, and from existing strategies, management plans, and arrangements.
5. The Council's new draft Biodiversity Strategy 2022 – 2032 is attached as Appendix A.
6. It has been informed by expert external advice from the East of England LGA, pre-draft public consultation via an event at the Halls in November 2021, and digital engagement via the Get Talking Norwich platform which is still live. Committee members will recall that the outputs from that pre-draft consultation was discussed at the last CEEEP meeting of the 22nd of March 2022. Much of the input from the engagement was specific ideas and tactical comments, and great enthusiasm from the community, and these outputs will be included in our Biodiversity Opportunities Register.
7. The draft strategy will be published for external consultation shortly, and this will include:

¹ As indicated by the UK Ward Canopy Cover interactive map at <https://forestry.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=d8c253ab17e1412586d9774d1a09fa07>

- a) Direct engagement with Strategic Partners who are owners or managers of significant natural assets and Interested Parties who can facilitate change. This includes, for example, other local councils, key partnership groups such as the Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership, the River Wensum Strategy Partnership and the Norfolk Strategic Planning Group, key organisations such as the Norfolk Wildlife Trust, Broads Authority and RSPB and others. A schedule of Strategic Partners and Interested Parties is included in the Strategy.
 - b) Engagement with communities and individuals via the Environment Hub on Get Talking Norwich, and via existing contacts and networks.
 - c) Engagement with Norwich City Council members, via this group and other forums.
 - d) The full detail of the consultation communication plan, and final timelines, are being developed as this report is written. Strategic Partners will be invited to a webinar to discuss and comment on the plan and Interested Parties via an online portal. There will also be an opportunity to contribute to the Biodiversity Opportunities Register.
8. The new strategy proposes an enhanced commitment, from that in the Environment Strategy (2020-2025) of “Protect and enhance biodiversity and habitat” to “Create a city where biodiversity can recover and thrive, halt species decline and increase species abundance by 2030” and includes two principal outcomes:
- a) The development of a Nature Recovery Network (NRN) for Norwich which will be created by leading and inviting coordinated action from Strategic Partners and Interested Parties to work together towards the common goal of sustained nature recovery in the city
 - b) Aligning council operations with the strategy to contribute to the NRN by improving biodiversity in parks, open spaces and the green spaces in and around our buildings
9. Alongside the principal outcomes, the strategy also seeks to:
- a) Improve wellbeing through improved access to nature;
 - b) Reduce heat, drought, flood risk and other impacts of climate change, improve air quality and water quality in our rivers and surface water resources;
 - c) Enhance tourism and visitor experience and
 - d) Grow the green economy with regards promoting biodiversity and ensuring alignment between this Strategy and strategies and plans for economic growth;
10. Delivery of the strategy will be managed via a cross council Biodiversity Working Group, administered from the central Environment Strategy Team and

additional resource is in place to establish this. Funding is also in place for the UEA to undertake a biodiversity baseline measurement exercise for the city.

11. A Biodiversity Action plan, and Opportunities Register, will be put in place to identify and prioritise actions, via the normal internal corporate planning processes.
12. We expect to bring back an updated strategy towards the end of this year for adoption by Cabinet, and intend to discuss that with CEEEP members again.
13. The ambition set out in the Strategy is to achieve an increase in species abundance by 2030, and for Norwich's NRN to be significantly complete by this time. This exceeds the ambitions set out in the Environment Act 2021, which are to halt species decline by 2030 and for the national NRN to be complete by 2042.

Consultation

14. The discussion at this committee forms part of our consultation on the draft strategy, and further consultation is planned.

Implications

15. The Norwich Nature Recovery Network proposed in the Strategy may need to align with the requirements of the national NRN as set out in the Environment Act 2021, the details of which are currently unknown. The strategy makes provision for detail of the city's NRN to flex according to national NRN when details become known. A similar linkage and flexibility exists for the Greater Norwich Green Infrastructure Strategy, which is currently in the early stages of development.

Financial and Resources

16. Financial decisions associated with the strategy will be undertaken in line with our Corporate Plan priorities and internal planning processes. Funding is in place for central resource to establish our working group, and for the baseline study of biodiversity in the city.

Legal

17. Not applicable

Statutory Considerations

Consideration	Details of any implications and proposed measures to address:
Equality and Diversity	NA
Health, Social and Economic Impact	This strategy is intended to have a beneficial impact on health

Consideration	Details of any implications and proposed measures to address:
Crime and Disorder	NA
Children and Adults Safeguarding	NA
Environmental Impact	The strategy will enhance the city's environment.

Risk Management

Risk	Consequence	Controls Required
Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

Other Options Considered

18. No other option considered.

Reasons for the decision/recommendation

19. To seek the committee's views on the draft strategy.

Background papers:

Appendices: Appendix A - Draft Biodiversity Strategy

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Norwich City Council
Biodiversity Strategy 2022 – 2032

DRAFT

Draft for Consultation

Contents	Page
1. Foreword by Councillor Adam Giles	3
2. The Need and Context for this New Biodiversity Strategy	5
3. Council Biodiversity Policy and the 2040 City Vision	5
4. Taking an Integrated Strategic Approach	6
5. Working in Partnership	6
6. The Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan	7
7. Management and Assurance	7
8. Consultation and Communication	7
9. The Strategic Objectives	8
10. Appendix	11

1. Foreword

Foreword by Councillor Adam Giles - Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing

- 1.1 Norwich City Council has declared Climate and Ecological Emergencies. This new Biodiversity Strategy and its associated Action Plan are a key part of delivering against the priorities and ambitions set within the Council's overarching Environmental Strategy 2020-25 (Appendix A).
- 1.2 We are rightly proud of our beautiful, unique and diverse city and its natural environment - with many hidden green space gems, heathland, parks, woodland, allotments and waterways, providing Green Flag award-winning places for us to appreciate. This habitat is of course also home to a variety of wildlife and nature, whose survival is dependent on human behaviour. In turn our future prosperity is reliant on biodiversity being able to thrive.
- 1.3 Since the council's previous biodiversity strategy was published in 2002, significant efforts have been made to improve the quality of our local nature reserves and wildlife sites. These include Green Flag Status for Eaton Park, Waterloo Park, and Mousehold Heath, as well as management plans in place for those sites with prioritised habitats and species. £300,000 in CIL funding was secured to invest in the creation of new habitats at Kett's Heights to boost biodiversity.
- 1.4 At Mousehold Heath a grant of £30,600 was secured from Natural England for a Higher Level Stewardship Agreement to improve the quantity and quality of heathland and acid grassland, nationally important habitats. This work has led to the identification of: a number of scarce and threatened bee and wasp species; a number of butterfly species, such as small copper and green hairstreak; and a number of moth species, including true lover's knott, heath rustic, and beautiful yellow underwing. The installation of bentonite clay linings at the Vinegar Pond and the Mustard Pond have seen a good number of dragonfly and damselfly species prosper, including the Norfolk Hawker, a nationally threatened and scarce Red Data book species.
- 1.5 Exceptional partnership work and valuable projects have been delivered with our environmentally passionate community and key stakeholders. A biodiversity event held at St Andrew's & Blackfriars Hall on 30th November 2021, highlighted a vast range of additional ideas that we can look to take forward together. More than ever we need to work collectively and also look to draw on the experience of the Norwich 2040 City Vision partnership to reach out to all sectors of our community.
- 1.6 Our broader Environmental Strategy (2020-25) complements this Biodiversity Strategy through provision for reduced carbon emissions and air pollution.

- 1.7 The City Council has an important leadership role to play as an anchor institution in creating sustainable communities where biodiversity can thrive. Positive action through innovative management techniques of parks and open spaces, excellent conservation of our natural areas, and ambitious expectations of housing developers all support our goal to create a place where our residents, visitors and the environment can all flourish.
- 1.8 The Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of access to local green spaces and nature, both for physical health and mental wellbeing. Biodiversity must be protected and enhanced if Norwich is to remain an attractive place to live and work for our residents.
- 1.9 In order to maintain and improve biodiversity across the city, action will need to be taken at every level. From individuals to large organisations. From gardens to our road verges, our green spaces, to our industrial estates and new developments. We need to be much more connected to, and aware of, the nature that surrounds us, our impact upon it, the benefits it brings, and take the opportunities to support biodiversity available to us.
- 1.10 We have set ourselves ambitious targets and pledge to use our planning powers to produce Biodiversity Net Gain on all redevelopments, a genuinely radical approach to sustainable development that enhances biodiversity.
- 1.11 It will be equally important to work closely with and influence key partners and stakeholders, including Norfolk County Council, who have responsibility for transport, highways and verges, lighting and education in our area. We will continue to strive to lead by example in positively managing our own treasured and unique habitats.

I am delighted we are continuing to demonstrate our commitment to put biodiversity at the centre of what Norwich City Council does, support our wider aim of responding effectively to the Climate Emergency, and lead on educating us all in the immense value of our biodiversity being able to prosper.

A. Giles

Councillor Adam Giles - Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing



2. The Need and Context for this New Biodiversity Strategy

The paragraphs below firstly define biodiversity, and then go on to set out the need and context for this new Biodiversity Strategy (hereafter ‘this Strategy’).

- 2.1 Biodiversity is the collective term for the variety and abundance of forms of life found in an area, including animals, plants, fungi and microorganisms like bacteria. Each of these species and organisms work together in ecosystems, like an intricate web to maintain, balance and support life. Biodiversity supports everything in nature that we need to survive including, food, oxygen, clean air, clean water, medicine, and shelterⁱ.
- 2.2 The current global loss of biodiversity is unprecedented in human history. The 2020 global Living Planet Index shows an average 68% fall in populations of mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles and fish between 1970 and 2016ⁱⁱ.
- 2.3 Thriving biodiversity and sustainable ecosystems are essential for our survival, wellbeing and our local economy. We are inextricably connected with nature; we are part of the ecosystem and not separate from it.
- 2.4 In response to this, Norwich City Council (hereafter ‘the Council’) declared a climate and environmental emergency in September of 2019.
- 2.5 The Environment Act 2021ⁱⁱⁱ (hereafter ‘the new Environment Act’) aims (amongst other things) to halt species decline and improve our natural environment. Part of Central Government’s 25 Year Environment Plan^{iv}, it sets out a framework for developing Nature Recovery Networks, Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS), Protected Site and Species Conservation Strategies and gives councils new powers to ensure 10% biodiversity net gain (BNG) is achieved in new developments.
- 2.6 Norwich’s tree canopy cover is higher than the national average^v with the city providing generous levels of open spaces, two river valleys, extensive undeveloped flood meadows and marshes and other significant habitats and species. This strategy aims to build on the existing knowledge of Norwich’s biodiversity and the success of existing strategies, management plans, and arrangements.

3. Council Biodiversity Policy and the 2040 City Vision

Taking action to redress the climate and environmental emergencies are key policy priorities for the Council and form central planks of the Norwich 2040 City Vision (hereafter ‘the Vision’).

- 3.1 Existing policy statements include:

a) Environmental Policy

Appendix A of the Environmental Strategy 2020-25 states that the Council will monitor its resource for

Protecting and enhancing habitat and biodiversity

b) Development Plan Policies, which are listed in Appendix Section 10.1

3.2 New Policy Statement

The following *new* policy statement has been agreed as part of the process of producing this Strategy. This statement supersedes the previous statement made in Appendix A of the Environmental Strategy 2020-25^{vi}, and forms part of the 2022 Environmental Commitment Policy Statement which is expected to be published in 2022:

Create a city where biodiversity can recover and thrive, halt species decline and increase species abundance by 2030

3.3 One of the 5 themes of The Vision is to create a *Liveable City*, which includes:

Protecting and maintaining our green and open spaces to improve biodiversity

3.4 The aims and objectives of this Strategy describe how Council policy and the Vision will be effectively and reliably delivered upon, and how legislation will be adhered to.

4. Taking an Integrated Strategic Approach

To redress the environmental emergency, it is recognised that this Strategy shall successfully identify dependencies with other associated Council strategies and ensure their successful integration. Associated policies, strategies and plans are detailed in Appendix Section 10.2.

5. Working in Partnership and with Interested Parties

To deliver the objectives set out in Section 9 below, partnerships shall be established with key external organisations concerned with strategic planning and action to improve biodiversity.

The Council shall also engage with interested parties to deliver the objectives. A register of interested parties shall be maintained and updated by the Biodiversity Working Group as proposed in Appendix Section 10.3.

6. Biodiversity Strategy Aims

The aims of this Strategy are to set out:

- a) The generalities of the Council's approach to delivering its biodiversity policy commitments;
- b) How relevant parts of the Vision will be realised and
- c) Ensure the Council's duties, with regards biodiversity, are met in a coordinated and effective way.

It is envisaged that this Strategy is reviewed and amended every 5 years to ensure it continues meet its strategic aims, or as required.

7. Management and Assurance

- 7.1 The implementation of Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan will be managed, measured, updated and communicated by the Council's Biodiversity Working Group, as part its Environmental Management System assurance arrangements.
- 7.2 The Biodiversity Working Group shall comprise officers of the Council with reporting lines to the Council Leadership Team, Portfolio Holders and/or Cabinet, as required.
- 7.3 The Biodiversity Working Group shall maintain registers concerning environmental aspects, compliance, risks and opportunities, funding opportunities, key strategic partners and interested parties.

8. Consultation and Communication

This Strategy is informed by a comprehensive consultation exercise including members of the public, officers and members of Norwich City Council, subject matter experts, partner organisations and interested parties.

Communication of this Strategy will be managed by the Biodiversity Working Group.

9. The Strategic Objectives

This section describes how the Council will meet its policy commitments to address the environmental emergency with regards biodiversity, and how it will realise the relevant parts of the Vision.

The strategic objectives are:

- 9.1 Develop a Nature Recovery Network (NRN) in the city to bring about a sustained recovery in biodiversity. The city's NRN shall be part of the *national* NRN as set out in the new Environment Act, the proposed aims of which are summarised in Appendix section 10.4.

Norwich's NRN shall:

- a. Identify, connect, protect, create and enhance blue and green natural assets^{vii}
- b. Recognise the potential habitat value of all non-built space as well as potential habitats which may exist within the curtilage of buildings
- c. Consist of nature hubs such as existing wildlife sites and parkland, connected by nature corridors which may take the form of designated parts of the city including streets, green spaces on and around buildings and highway verges. Opportunities to 'infill' the network will be sought in the form of smaller green spaces in the built environment, such as back gardens and smaller green areas.
- d. Norwich's NRN will be significantly complete and increase species abundance by 2030;

The NRN shall be enabled by, or comprise, the following elements:

- e. The Greater Norwich Green Infrastructure Strategy which shall be a principal driver of the NRN in the Greater Norwich Area.
- f. The *national* NRN may, when details become known, require change to the requirements of the city's NRN to ensure alignment. It is acknowledged that implementation of the National NRN is a duty of Norfolk County Council;
- g. Local Nature Recovery Strategies, Species Conservation Strategies and other mechanisms of the New Environment Act, to establish species and place-based priorities;

- h. Nature assets owned and/or managed by partner organisations such as nature reserves;
- i. A significant portion of the parks, open spaces and undeveloped land owned and managed by the Council;
- j. Existing buildings owned and managed by the Council with regards the potential for green roofs, balconies and green areas adjacent to buildings;
- k. Existing buildings owned and managed by commercial entities, contributing on a voluntary basis, with regards the potential for green roofs, balconies and green areas adjacent to buildings;
- l. Existing buildings owned and managed by members of the public, contributing on a voluntary basis, with regards the potential for green roofs, balconies, back gardens and green areas adjacent to buildings and
- m. New developments providing 10% biodiversity net gain, through either onsite or offsite arrangements.

9.2 Apply evidence and science-based approaches to improving biodiversity, by:

- a. Establishing measurable key indicators using methodologies which are supported by recognised science;
- b. Recording biodiversity baselines and subsequent ecology change using surveys and recognised methodologies, to measure the success of this Strategy and related activity, and to inform the evolution of future iterations of this Strategy
- c. Promoting sustainable ecosystems through recognised ecology theory and practice whilst also enabling innovation, and by recognising the need for ecology to adapt to climate change.

This objective is informed, in part, by the guidance set out in Appendix D of DEFRA's Measuring environmental change: outcome indicator framework the 25 Year Environment Plan^{viii}

9.3 In the planning, development and maintenance of the NRN, the Council shall seek to:

- a. Create new policies and strategies as necessary to deliver the NRN and meet new statutory requirements such as realising 10% biodiversity net gain in new developments;

- b. Achieve savings and develop revenue streams aligned with biodiversity improvement, such as through nature-based solution offerings and off-site biodiversity net gain arrangements for new development;
- c. Reduce negative impacts on biodiversity through measures relating to the design and operation of its buildings and other assets;
- d. Reduce negative impacts on biodiversity through measures relating to how the council procures goods and services;
- e. Reduce heat, drought, flood risk and improve air and water quality, through biodiversity improvement schemes;
- f. Improve wellbeing through improved access to nature;
- g. Enhance tourism and improve visitor experience;
- h. Grow the green economy with regards promoting biodiversity and ensuring alignment between this Strategy and strategies and plans for economic growth;
- i. Deliver our policy commitments, plans and the relevant sections of the Vision in relation to this Strategy and Action Plan;
- j. Act as Leader to co-create opportunity and coordinate action and external funding and investment, by proactively and collaboratively engaging with partners and interested parties, and
- k. [Manage financial decisions associated with the NRN in line with our Corporate Plan priorities and internal planning processes. *Wording to be finalised*]

A Biodiversity Action Plan will be developed setting out how each of these objectives will be realised.

10. Appendix

10.1 Development Plan Policies

a) Current Development Plan Policies

Policy DM6 Natural environmental assets

Development is expected to take all reasonable opportunities to avoid harm to and protect and enhance the natural environment of Norwich and its setting, including both sites and species

Policy DM7 Trees and development

Trees and significant hedge and shrub masses should be retained as an integral part of the design of development except where their long-term survival would be compromised by their age or physical condition or there are exceptional and overriding benefits in accepting their loss.

b) Future Proposed Development Plan Policies

Greater Norwich Local Plan

The Greater Norwich Local Plan (GNLP) is in two parts - the Strategy and Sites Plan. The Strategy outlines the broad approach to housing and jobs growth, along with policies to ensure sustainability, protect our environment and provide infrastructure.

The Sites Plan identifies the sites which we propose to allocate to meet housing and employment needs to 2038, as well as the allocations we propose to carry forward from the current Broadland, Norwich and South Norfolk local plans. At this point the Sites Plan excludes villages within South Norfolk which will be addressed through a separate housing sites allocation document and will form part of the development plan for the area

Supplementary Development Plan

A supplementary development plan will be produced to give guidance to developers around the requirement for 10% biodiversity net gain, currently expected to come into at the end of 2023.

10.2 Associated Policies, Strategies and Plans

a) Associated Policies, Strategies and Action Plans owned by Norwich City Council

- Environmental Commitment Policy Statement

- Environmental Strategy
- Environmental Action Plan
- Greater Norwich Infrastructure Plan
- Greater Norwich Green Infrastructure Strategy
- Strategic Asset Management Framework March 2022
- Asset management strategy for housing
- Parks and open spaces
- Allotments and cemeteries
- Trees
- Pesticide use
- Nutrient Neutrality
- Climate change adaption
- Carbon management plan
- Water reduction
- Waste reduction and recycling

b) Policies, Strategies and Plans owned by external actors

- National Planning Policy Framework^{ix}
- HM Government 25 Year Environment Plan^x
- River Wensum Strategy
- Local Nature Recovery Strategies
- Species Conservation Strategies
- Protected Site Strategies
- Norfolk Strategic Planning Framework

10.3 Proposed Strategic Partners and Interested Parties

Strategic Partners
Norwich City Council
Norfolk County Council
Greater Norwich Growth Board
Norwich Climate Change Commission

Broadland District Council and South Norfolk District Council
Breckland Council
Broads Authority
Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership
River Wensum Strategy Partnership
Norfolk Wildlife Trust
Woodland Trust
RSBP
Wild East
Community Representation
2040 City Vision Business Leaders' Group
Norfolk Strategic Planning Group

Interested Parties
<i>Local Interested Parties</i>
Norwich citizens
Norwich businesses
Norwich institutions
Norfolk Biodiversity Information Service
Norwich voluntary, community and social enterprises
Registered housing providers
Community groups with an interest in biodiversity
The Council executive, administration and cabinet
Representative from the Greater Norwich Sport & Physical Activity Strategy
Norwich Fringe Project
Parish Councils
Norwich Friends of the Earth
<i>Campaign Groups</i>
Friends of the Earth
Greenpeace
Extinction Rebellion
<i>Regional and National Interested Parties</i>
Water Resource East

Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Office for Environmental Protection
Natural England
Environment Agency
Forestry Commission
Forestry England

10.4 The National Nature Recovery Network

The *national* Nature Recovery Network proposed aims are:

- Halt the decline in species abundance by 2030;
- Increase species abundance by at least 10% by 2042, compared to 2030 levels^{xi};
- Improve the England-level GB Red List Index for species extinction risk by 2042, compared to 2022 levels^{xi};
- Restore 75% of protected sites on land (including freshwaters) to favourable condition so nature can thrive^{xi};
- Create or restore 500,000 hectares of additional wildlife-rich habitat outside of protected sites by 2042, compared to 2022 levels^{xi};
- Recover threatened and iconic animal and plant species by providing more, diverse and better-connected habitats;
- Support work to increase woodland cover and
- Achieve a range of environmental, economic and social benefits, such as carbon capture, flood management, clean water, pollination and recreation.

ⁱ Adapted from WWF link here [What is biodiversity? | Pages | WWF \(worldwildlife.org\)](https://www.worldwildlife.org/pages/what-is-biodiversity)

ⁱⁱ Living Planet Index link here [Living Planet Index](https://www.livingplanetindex.org/)

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/world-leading-environment-act-becomes-law> and

^{iv} 25 Year Environment Plan link here [25 Year Environment Plan - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/25-year-environment-plan)

^v As indicated by the UK Ward Canopy Cover interactive map at

<https://forestry.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=d8c253ab17e1412586d9774d1a09fa07>

^{vi} [Foreword – portfolio holder | Environmental strategy 2020-25 | Norwich City Council](#)

^{vii} Blue and Green means pertaining to land and water based natural assets

^{viii} https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/92577/9/25-yep-indicators-2019.pdf

^{ix} [15. Conserving and enhancing the natural environment - National Planning Policy Framework - Guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

^x [25 Year Environment Plan - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/25-year-environment-plan)

^{xi} At the time of writing this target has been proposed in a consultation exercise by the Department of Food, Rural Affairs and Agriculture (DEFRA) [Consultation on environmental targets - Defra - Citizen Space](#)