

Community Nature Recovery Plan for [add parish name]

Created by [add individual name, group name, or Parish Council name]

Produced as part of the *Nature Recovery – From the Ground Up* (NR-FGU) project

[add date]



Key contact for parish:

Name:

Contact details:

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How to use this template

This template follows the step-by-step process outlined in the NR-FGU guidance document to help parishes prepare a Community Nature Recovery Plan (CNRP). Each section includes prompts and tables aligned with the Parish Online mapping layers. The following steps from the guidance are included here:

1. Build a local working group
 - Who's involved?
2. Review existing plans/policies and decide next steps
 - Existing plans and policies
3. Secure access to Parish Online
 - Who's involved?
4. Assess the habitats in your parish and ground truth the LNRS
 - Local Habitats in [parish]
5. Keep track of points of concern for nature in your parish
 - Areas of Concern for Nature in [parish]
6. Map existing nature projects and record engaged landowners
 - Local Habitats in [parish]
 - Community Nature Recovery Projects
7. Identify potential community nature projects
 - Community Nature Recovery Projects
8. Get feedback, revise and adopt your plan
10. Monitor progress and review your plan
 - Monitoring progress and reviewing this CNRP

please delete this “How to use this template” section before publishing your CNRP

Introduction

Nature recovery is becoming increasingly important, and Cambridgeshire only has 8% of land dedicated to nature, which is half of the national average. [group or Parish Council] is taking action to engage with communities, conserve and protect existing habitats, create/restore habitats for nature, and address key environmental concerns in [parish].

The Nature Recovery – From the Ground Up project launched by Cambridgeshire County Council in 2025 includes [parish] as part of the pilot of this project. This Community Nature Recovery Plan sets out a five-year plan of projects for the improvement and creation of more nature rich habitats in [parish].

Add one or two paragraphs describing the landscape of the parish, and what the top priorities are e.g. the parish is dominated by fenland habitat and grassland, restoring and improving these habitats is the top priority for our parish. Don't worry if you aren't able to write much here, just a simple summary will also be suitable. Do add pictures of the habitats in your parish.

[photos of habitats to help fill gaps]

1. Who's involved?

Detail below any information about any existing local groups in your parish that are working to improve biodiversity or sustainability. This could include a gardening group, a biodiversity group, a wildlife group, a river group, or a sub-group or committee of the Parish/Town Council.

Refer to the NR-FGU guidance on where to start if you have no local working groups in your parish.

The following individuals who are unaffiliated to a particular group have been involved in preparing this plan:

- [List any individuals here](#)

These individuals can be contacted via [\[non-personal email contact such as Parish clerk or similar\]](#).

Group name	What does the group do?	Contact details	Do they have access to Parish Online?
<i>e.g. a local eco group</i>	<i>e.g. improves green spaces, holds repair cafes, hosts bioblitzes</i>	<i>e.g. a website or group email address</i>	

Table 1. List of local working groups or committees

2. Existing plans and policies

List in a table any landscape-scale initiatives that are relevant to your parish e.g. nature networks, district landscapes, catchment partnerships, or farm clusters you know of. Please refer to the NR-FGU guidance page – for more help with this.

Landscape initiative	Link to document	Date document or initiative created or updated
<i>E.g. District Landscape</i>	<i>Online link . com</i>	

Table 2. Landscape initiatives that include [parish]

List in a table the existing policies and plans in your area (examples listed in the guidance document), with your assessment of them using Table 2 in the guidance.

Plan or Policy Name	Score (see Table 4)	Link to document	Date document created or updated
<i>E.g. Biodiversity Plan</i>	2	<i>Online link . com</i>	

Table 3. Assessment of existing plans

Score	Description
0	No policy or plan
1	Short, descriptive policy statement
2	Parish-specific plan with broad level actions e.g. encourage an increase urban greenery through tree planting and community gardens to provide shade and lower temperatures
3	Parish-specific plan including Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound (SMART) actions e.g. plant 20 trees by the end of the year in front gardens identified through a community engagement project
4	Parish-specific plan including SMART actions linked to the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) e.g. linking to action F4C, planting 20m of new native hedgerow that connects two small historic fragmented hedgerows together to create an ecological link through connected habitats

Table 4. Assessing existing plans (from NR-FGU Guidance document)

If after this assessment of existing plans, you decide a Community Nature Recovery Plan is helpful to you and your parish, refer to Action 3 in the NF-FGU guidance and complete the below.

3. Our natural environment in [Parish]

Designated sites

Add a map from Parish Online of any designated sites in the parish i.e. Local Nature Reserves or Sites of Special Scientific Interest, these are visible under the [CNRP Reference Layers – Core designated nature sites \(APIB\)](#).

[map]

Map 1. Designated sites for nature in [parish]

Add a description of the sites, including the name, and the habitat type i.e. woodland, grassland, wetland.

[pictures of key habitats in the parish]

Other areas of importance for nature in [parish]:

Add any information you know about any other sites in your parish. The Living England Habitat Maps available in Parish Online are a good starting point but be sure to ground-truth them.

Grasslands and arable farmland

Woodlands, orchards, and hedgerows

Road verges

Gardens and allotments

Churchyards and cemeteries

Amenity areas (urban grassland/playing fields)

Wetlands, fenlands or fen droves

Check the [Cam Catchment Partnership Blue Lens Opportunity Maps](#) (they are due to be added to Parish Online)

Other

Areas of biodiversity opportunity

Add a map from Parish Online of the Areas of Biodiversity Opportunity in your parish, these are listed under [CNRP Reference Layers – Areas of Biodiversity Opportunity \(ACB\) Points, Lines, and Polygons](#) layers.

[map]

Map 2. Areas of biodiversity opportunity (ACB) in [parish], as identified in the LNRS

Add a description of the key actions in the ACB layer, i.e. creation of woodland, improvement of grasslands, or improvement of urban green spaces.

You could also add a map using the [Community Nature Recovery Plans \(CNRP\) – Engaged landowners](#) layer to map where landowners have expressed interest in having more of their land dedicated to nature. Check for landowner permission first.

[map]

Map 3. Engaged landowners in [parish] with an interest in doing more for nature on their land

Add a paragraph on how this compares with what was identified as Areas of Biodiversity Opportunity in the LNRS i.e. x number of hectares or x number of sites were identified in the LNRS, but there are also x number of hectares or x number of additional sites in our parish that could be Areas of Biodiversity Opportunity by working with the landowners.

4. Areas of Concern for Nature in [parish]

Use the Parish Online – [Community Nature Recovery Plans \(CNRP\) – Concerns for nature](#) layer to map any key concerns from the community. You can also use the Environment Agency's flood mapping layers to highlight flooding issues in your parish if that is a high priority concern.

[map]

Map 3. Key concerns in [parish] or key areas of flooding in [parish]

Add any more detailed information that you would like to include in this section here about specific concerns, the history around them, or the context in surrounding areas i.e. are you aware of other parishes with the same issues? – you can reference the table below.

Concern category	Information	Monitoring (if any)	Management (if any)	Date mapped
<i>e.g. Japanese knotweed in local park</i>	<i>e.g. the knotweed has been spreading into the local park over the last few years</i>	<i>e.g. plans are being put in place to manage the knotweed</i>		<i>e.g. 01/02/2026</i>

Table 5. Key concerns for nature in [parish]

After creating your list of concerns, you could choose to focus on one specific concern that you'd like to address in your parish e.g. improving habitats for a key species such as swifts. This can be useful as evidence of baseline data, followed by ongoing monitoring of the concern to see improvements over time.

5. Nature Recovery Projects

Populate the table below with your Nature Projects – this should align with what you input into Parish Online. Use the Project ID column in Parish Online to correlate projects between this document and the mapping software.

This should be a five-year pipeline of projects that can be taken forward for funding. Much of the information can be held within Parish Online and referenced to in the table (Project ID) to avoid creating a lengthy document; the table in this Community Nature Recovery Plan is more of a summary of the projects for your parish.

If this is overwhelming, try to just focus on a singular project that is approachable and easy to achieve, rather than many different projects. Look out for our upcoming list of example projects to get you started, which will be signposted once available.

Project title	Stage of development	Start date	End date	Monitoring/evaluation	Habitat type(s)	Aims of the project	Project ID

Table 6. Community Nature Recovery Projects for [parish]

*stage of development refers to those listed in Appendix 6: Table 3 of the NR-FGU Guidance - Idea, Planning, Resources Secured, In Progress, Completed and Closed, or Completed with Ongoing Potential

6. Monitoring progress and reviewing this CNRP

How will you measure the success of your nature recovery projects in your parish? A mix of measures is useful, and you can use the table below as a starting point if helpful, but this is optional and you can delete as appropriate.

Number of people attending events/engaged	Number of events run	Swift number % increase	Number of gardens added to wildlife garden network	Baseline number of species records added for [parish] in [year]	Target number of species records added in [year]	% increase in number of species records between [year] and [year]
				<i>You could use records from iRecord, for example.</i>	<i>New records could be achieved through Bioblitz events.</i>	

Table 7. Ongoing monitoring of the success of community nature recovery in [parish]

This is another optional extra, so if you are keen on going into more depth for a specific concern in your parish and how you will monitor this, you could use the blank table below as a starting point and tailor the headings to your concern. For swifts, this could be, numbers of sightings per year, information on numbers of swift boxes placed, and percentage change of number of swifts sighted over time. If you have noticed a recent decline (species loss), this could be a good option to focus on to see your progress over time.

You could link your monitoring to an existing national scheme such as the [Riverfly Monitoring Initiative \(RMI\) — The Riverfly Partnership](#), which can be used to monitor water quality concerns.

Table 8. Monitoring of [concern] in [parish]

e.g. Monitoring of swift populations in [parish], with headings such as locations of sightings, numbers of swifts, dates of sightings, and numbers of swift boxes.

Lastly, please use the table below to fill in key information about when your plan will be reviewed. This might be once a year if there is capacity to do so, or once every few years if that is more achievable.

Date of CNRP publication for [parish]:	
Dates to review CNRP	Reviewed Y/N
e.g. 01/01/2027	e.g. Y

Table 9. Publication and review information

***DELETE ALL GUIDANCE TEXT IN PINK BEFORE PUBLISHING YOUR COMMUNITY
NATURE RECOVERY PLAN***