

# Imagine a Norfolk...

... where wildlife flourishes in countryside, villages and towns

... where children grow up inspired by the sights and sounds of nature

... where the places we work and live are part of a network of habitats rich in wildlife



**This is our vision for a Living Landscape**

## Ways in which you can help our Living Landscape

- Become a member
- Join one of eight Local Groups
- Learn more about Norfolk's wildlife with the Wildlife Information Service or by coming to an event
- Volunteer for the Trust
- Make a donation in support of a Living Landscape

Call **01603 625540**  
or visit [www.norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk](http://www.norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk)



## Norfolk Wildlife

Our consultancy arm can offer advice and assistance to landowners seeking to enhance, manage and restore their wildlife habitats.

For more information call **01603 625540**.



*"The last time the UK's wildlife faced a challenge on this scale was at the end of the last ice age. We need to find ways to help our wildlife become more resilient to the trials it faces in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We must now work on a landscape scale if we are to give wildlife a chance and allow future generations to enjoy nature as we have."*

**Sir David Attenborough**, Vice President of The Wildlife Trusts



## ... and people

People are at the heart of a Living Landscape and everyone has a role to play. The real strength of a Living Landscape comes from the combined impact of individuals, businesses and community organisations acting in partnership. The whole really is much greater than the sum of the individual parts... wildlife friendly gardens alongside allotments, next to a village green and churchyard, near flower-rich road verges, crossed by a stream linked to field margins managed for wildlife. The total area of land managed by gardeners in Norfolk far exceeds the area of nature reserves owned by Norfolk Wildlife Trust, and all are vital to creating a Living Landscape. Through small and large actions, often led by local people, this vision of a whole landscape richer in wildlife can be achieved.

A Living Landscape means the revival of the land we love. Nature is valuable in so many ways – it can temper the climate, clean the air, regulate the flow of water, give us space in which to play and heal our minds and bodies. It is time to channel it back into the heart of all our lives.



**Will you join us and be part of this vision**



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Norfolk Wildlife Trust is working to secure the future for wildlife by restoring Norfolk's countryside on a landscape scale.

Faced with the uncertainties of climate change, the fragmentation of habitat is one of the main threats to wildlife in Norfolk. Even the largest wildlife sites are remnants of the countryside we once had, and often survive in isolation. Small isolated populations of species are the most vulnerable – stranded in pockets of disconnected habitat, they will struggle to respond to the changing conditions.

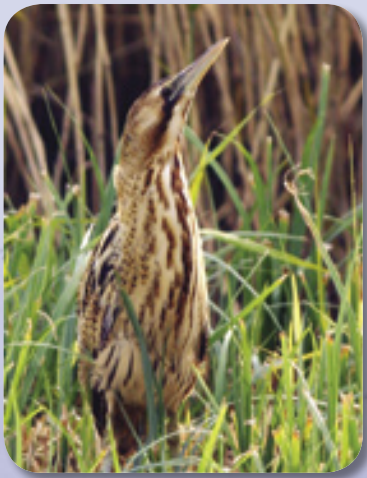
Our vision for Norfolk is a Living Landscape – a joined up landscape where species can expand their range and move through a wildlife-rich countryside along networks of linked habitat. This is a vision shared by all the Wildlife Trusts in the UK.

Driven by local people and aspirations, Norfolk Wildlife Trust plays a leading role not just in developing the vision but in gaining the support that can allow communities to drive their own change. We do this by working closely with community groups, businesses, land managers and local authorities on landscape-scale projects around the county.

Our vision for a Living Landscape is a 21<sup>st</sup> century approach to nature conservation, firmly grounded in Norfolk Wildlife Trust's greatest strength: action for local wildlife, led by local people.

**Brendan Joyce**, Director of Norfolk Wildlife Trust

## A Living Landscape for Norfolk's Wildlife



For eight decades Norfolk Wildlife Trust has been leading conservation efforts in Norfolk. It has saved some of the county's most important wildlife sites by protecting them as nature reserves. As the ecological anchors of a Living Landscape, our nature reserves are more important than ever, and the larger they are, the better for wildlife. Now in the face of climate change, we need to link these wildlife oases and restore ecosystems and natural processes at a speed and on a scale that we would once have felt was impossible.

The effects of climate change – already being witnessed – mean many plants and animals will need to move in search of suitable conditions: a 2°C rise in temperature will shift the natural range of some species more than 150 miles to the North or nearly 1,000ft up the hillsides. Wildlife needs to adapt and for that to happen, the landscape needs to be addressed as a whole.

These large-scale schemes will help to alleviate floods, control pollution and help us cope with extremes of temperature. What is good for wildlife is good for people too.

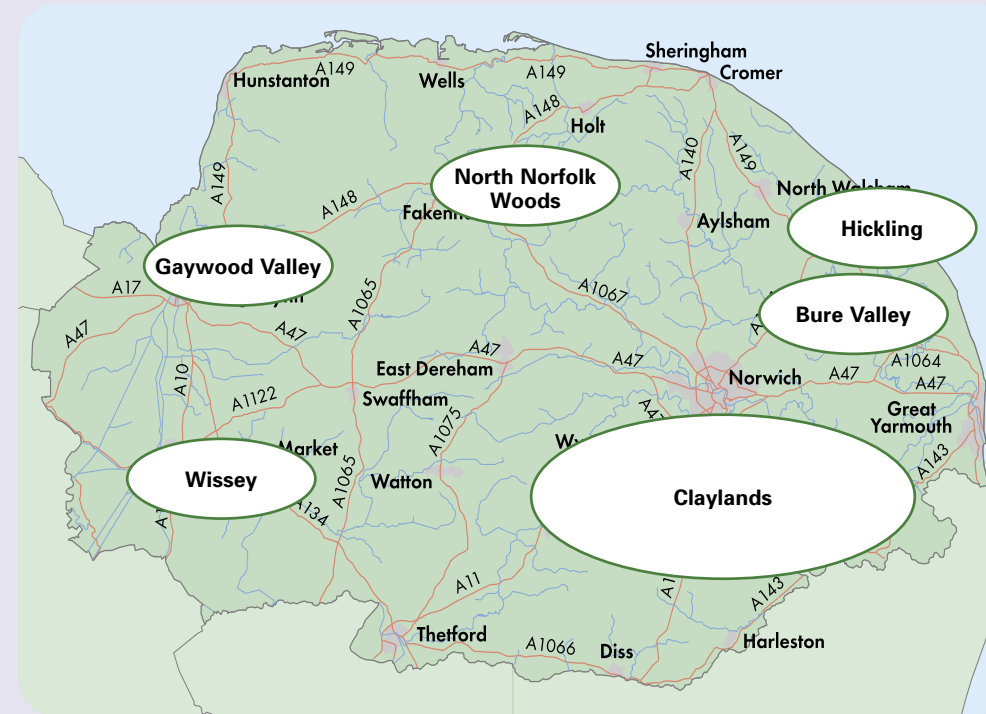
In partnership with Norfolk Biodiversity Information Service we have completed a pioneering project to map the county's most valuable wildlife habitat. From this we have highlighted the best opportunities to link up habitat and create the joined-up countryside that wildlife needs.



## Norfolk's Living Landscape initiatives

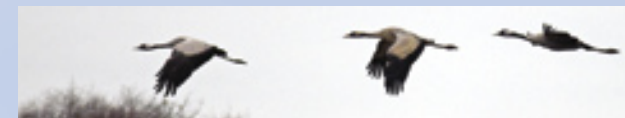
Norfolk Wildlife Trust's aim is to **restore, recreate and reconnect** our wildlife habitats so that wildlife has a better chance of surviving climate change.

The Trust has identified a number of priority areas where we shall be focussing our efforts. These Living Landscape schemes have been selected to cover some of the key wildlife areas in Norfolk and other areas where there are opportunities to create new habitats. In the future further schemes will be developed.



### Species that will benefit

**Crane** – this spectacular bird is recolonising the county. We hope that creating and enlarging wetlands will encourage the population to spread.

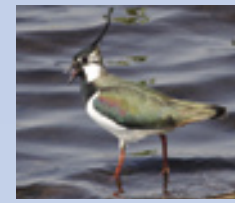


**Bats** – many species of bats require a mosaic of habitats such as ponds, grasslands, old hedgerows and small woodlands all linked together.



**Meadow flowers** – the destruction of most of our old flower rich meadows has put many once widespread flowers at risk. It will take many years to recreate something akin to the old meadows but great steps can be made by spreading hay and seed from the few remaining sites onto new areas.

**Lapwing** – the sight and sound of lapwing displaying over our wet grasslands and marshes should be far more common. Sadly these birds are in decline but their favoured habitat of wet grassland with shallow flooded areas will be created as part of the Hickling and Bure Valley Living Landscapes in the Broads.



**Black darter** – the creation of new areas of heathland with small acidic pools will provide just the right conditions for the black darter.



**Hedgehog, swallow and cuckoo** – Living Landscapes are not just about rare and threatened species as many of our everyday species will benefit from linked habitats.



### Bure Valley

The potential to enhance wildlife areas in the Broads is huge but so are the challenges to this special area. Climate change and population growth around Norwich will place large strains on the natural environment of the Broads.

The Living Landscape covers an area of over 10,000 hectares between Wroxham and Acle and homes some of the finest wildlife areas in the country. We aim to enhance the wetland habitats, create new ones and provide facilities for people to enjoy the wildlife.



### Claylands

Covering the entire landscape of the South Norfolk district, this area is dominated by arable farming with numerous ancient woodlands, small isolated grasslands, hedgerows and ponds.

This landscape still retains a large number of greens and commons, which once formed a highly interconnected landscape of grassland, scrub and woodland.



### Gaywood Valley

This is an area of over 4,000 hectares, encompassing the watershed of the Gaywood River, which flows into King's Lynn. It comprises a rich mosaic of habitats such as heathland, chalk stream and wetland as well as urban areas.

It is hoped that working with landowners we can restore wetlands, recreate heathland and where possible to restore the river and valley from source to mouth.



### Hickling

This Living Landscape covers an area of over 5,000 hectares and is dominated by Hickling Broad. It encompasses a range of wetland habitats including open water, reedbed, grazing marsh and fen. Many rare and scarce species can be found including swallowtail butterfly, bittern and the spectacular crane. There are a large number of challenging environmental issues that need addressing in this area in order to ensure that the ecological balance of Hickling Broad and other wetlands in the area is restored.

NWT is aiming to restore and enhance wetland areas and provide new opportunities to enjoy, understand and value the natural environment.



### North Norfolk Woods

The two largest ancient woodlands in Norfolk, NWT Foxley Wood and Swanton Novers, are found in this area. Much of the area is dominated by arable agriculture but there is also extensive parkland and woodland. The Living Landscape covers an area of over 8,000 hectares, where we plan to encourage the expansion and creation of woodland and meadows, enabling wildlife to move between and around the two ancient woodlands.



### Wissey

The Fens cover a huge area of west Norfolk. Once a huge wetland, they have been largely drained and are heavily cultivated. The Wissey Living Landscape covers an area of about 10,000 hectares where we hope to create a mosaic of wetland habitats and to work with landowners to enhance the wildlife of the farmed landscape.

We want to encourage an exciting range of wetland wildlife to re-colonise this corner of the Fens. Wetland birds like bittern, little egret and marsh harrier could once again thrive here.

