



Suffolk
Wildlife Trust

UNITED FOR NATURE

**Making devolution work for nature
and people in Norfolk and Suffolk**

Protect our most precious places for nature

Create more spaces for nature and people to thrive together

Invest in a healthier, happier, more prosperous future

Restoring nature isn't optional – it's essential for a better future



We have a chance to put nature on the path to recovery and deliver real benefits for local people, communities and businesses.

Nature is important to people in Norfolk and Suffolk. We love our local wildlife and we're proud of our local nature-rich places: from our rivers and chalk streams, to parks, woods, meadows, wetlands and famous landscapes like the Brecks, the Broads and our stunning coastlines.

Nature underpins the prosperity of our two counties and the wellbeing of our people and communities. It provides us with everything from food and water to energy and recreation, and it's vital for our thriving visitor economy – the largest employment sector in both Norfolk and Suffolk, with more than 120,000 jobs and a value of £5.9 billion.

Allowing nature to be lost or damaged puts the things it provides us with at risk, making us all poorer as result. On the other hand, protecting, restoring, and investing in nature can deliver huge benefits: it can improve our health and wellbeing, protect our homes and businesses from flooding, and support sustainable jobs and a resilient economy.

The new Combined County Authority for Norfolk and Suffolk will help shape our counties' future: our infrastructure, housing, economy, and natural environment. We have lost enough nature and seen enough damage done to our natural environment in Norfolk and Suffolk.

Now we need the two County Councils, and the Combined County Authority, to recognise the importance of nature to people, communities, and businesses in our counties; and to seize the opportunity for nature to improve people's lives and unlock sustainable, nature-positive economic growth.

£37 billion

worth of benefits from nature services

Defra 2024



90%

of people agree nature benefits their physical and mental health

Natural England 2025



Natural flood management delivers a return on investment of

10 to 1

The Wildlife Trusts 2025



Three actions for the Combined County Authority for Norfolk and Suffolk:

1 PROTECT

our most precious places for nature

Adopt a 'nature in all policies' approach that supports positive decisions for nature and the environment in all functions and responsibilities of the Combined County Authority.

Protect our most important places for nature through the Spatial Development Strategy and other strategies, policies and plans

Give nature a voice in the Combined County Authority by appointing a member with expertise in, and responsibility for, the environment, climate change, and biodiversity.

2 CREATE

more spaces for nature and people to thrive together

Increase access to nature where people live by creating more nature-rich greenspaces in towns and new housing developments.

Create more, bigger, better, and joined-up places for nature by delivering the Local Nature Recovery Strategies and supporting nature-friendly farming.

Protect land for nature recovery by embedding the Local Nature Recovery Strategy in the Spatial Development Strategy and other plans and policies.

3 INVEST

in a healthier, happier, more prosperous future

Kick-start investment in nature-based solutions to problems like flooding, river pollution, air quality, and water scarcity by establishing a green infrastructure investment framework and fund as part of the Local Growth Plan.

Increase funding for County Wildlife Sites to restore these vital stepping stones for wildlife and people.

By delivering these actions, the Combined County Authority can help to achieve real, meaningful benefits for people, communities, businesses, and wildlife:



Nature-positive economic growth, prosperity, and jobs



Protection from flooding, water shortages, and extreme weather



Improved physical and mental health for local communities





Get in touch

norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk/unitedfornature
suffolkwildlifetrust.org/unitedfornature

This manifesto was co-created by Norfolk Wildlife Trust and Suffolk Wildlife Trust, and is backed by the following environmental charities with a combined local membership of over 200,000 people.

