



Plan for Nature

The plan sets out to protect and restore priority species and habitats, restore natural processes and deliver nature based solutions to improve biodiversity and mitigate climate change. It includes an assessment of the baseline state of nature across the High Peak, and identifies key areas to target for the creation / restoration / connection of habitats.

The Council will work with the Trust, local groups and landowners among other stakeholders to try and achieve these objectives.

What is biodiversity / nature recovery?

Biodiversity is the variety and variability of plants, animals and microorganisms found in a specified area. A high level of biodiversity is important - without this, we cannot have the healthy ecosystems that we rely on to provide us with the air we breathe and the food we eat.

Nature recovery concerns how we restore habitats and protect wildlife to enhance biodiversity and improve the natural environment.

Why is the plan needed?

The 'Lawton Review' (research commissioned by the Government) highlighted the poor state of England's ecological network including concerns of the ability of the current network to cope with climate change and other pressures.

This led to many authorities and organisations declaring a 'nature emergency'.

The climate crisis and nature emergencies are closely related - we cannot solve one crisis without tackling the other, as nature recovery is essential for tackling the climate crisis (including carbon removal and flood mitigation), whilst the climate crisis accelerates the decline of nature (through reduced ability of habitats to cope and adapt to a changing climate).

Vision

By 2040 across the High Peak, the landscape will be rich in wildlife, with connected corridors of designated local wildlife sites in good condition.

The Council leads the way in sustainable planning, recognised for a dynamic approach to ecology and development. Green roofs, native hedges and ponds are a common site within new developments.

Residents have good quality and biodiverse green open spaces within walking distance from their homes. Increased access to nature has led to a reduction in mental health issues, a rise in physical fitness and increasing air quality.

The borough has taken important steps towards nutrient neutrality. Rivers and streams are being brought into good condition, and appropriate planning and tree planting has successfully mitigated flooding events.

There are more green jobs and nature-based enterprises.

The borough is a hub for wildlife, with lots of ecological projects happening across the whole borough, from nature friendly gardening competitions in villages, to collaborative working between farming clusters. Towns and villages have species rich verges and pollinator friendly planters.

By 2050, 30% of all land will be protected and managed for nature.



How will we achieve this...?

