

# Forward to 2030: Biodiversity Action Plan

More, Bigger, Better and More Joined-up across  
Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes



## Executive Summary

The Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Natural Environment Partnership

# Foreword

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**This Biodiversity Action Plan has been produced by the Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Natural Environment Partnership** (the NEP), the Local Nature Partnership for Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes, working in collaboration with, and with support and input from, statutory conservation agencies, non-government organisations, local government, landowner/manager representatives, naturalist groups and individual wildlife, landscape and conservation experts.

**The Plan serves as the interim Biodiversity Strategy**, with a focus on nature's recovery, until such time as formal Local Nature Recovery Strategies are finalised to cover Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes.

**My particular thanks** go to those organisations and individuals who were able to contribute via representation on our working group, convened to update this Biodiversity Action Plan:

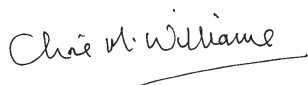
Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT)  
Buckinghamshire Council  
Chilterns Conservation Board  
Environment Agency  
Milton Keynes Council  
Natural England  
Parks Trust  
River Thames Conservation Trust  
The Late and Great Alan Holmes, NEP Delivery Group Chair (Independent Expert & Advisor)  
RSPB

We know that the only way to secure nature's recovery in the face of a biodiversity crisis is to apply four key principles to our ecological networks: more, bigger, better and joined up (Natural Environment White Paper 2011). Our ambition is to restore, create and connect habitats across Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes and into our surrounding areas, at the landscape-scale, making our wildlife populations more resilient and allowing wildlife to adapt to climate change and other pressures.

Achieving this ambition will require understanding of the scale of the problems, of the reliance we all have on nature and a response from beyond the local nature conservation sector. Our economy and society depend on us having a healthy environment and naturally functioning ecosystems. Organisations from all sectors, businesses and farmers, families and individuals all have so much to gain from our natural heritage, but they also have much to contribute.

This Plan describes the amazing biodiversity and habitats we have in Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes and highlights the need for collective action to address threats to them such as rapid development and climate change. Importantly, it identifies how the NEP is committed to working collectively with our partners and the public to take action to deliver the overarching objectives.

I urge everyone in Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes to consider how they can help achieve our shared goals outlined within this Plan.



Chris M Williams  
Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Natural Environment Partnership Chair



# Forward to 2030: Biodiversity Action Plan

More, Bigger, Better & More Joined-up  
across Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes

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***Forward to 2030:  
Biodiversity Action Plan for Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes***  
will be available to view and to download in full from the  
Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Natural Environment Partnership  
website: [www.bucksmknep.co.uk/forward-to-2030](http://www.bucksmknep.co.uk/forward-to-2030)

# Statement of Commitment: Delivering Biodiversity Priorities

## Commitments from the NEP and its Partners in delivering the BAP 2030

The organisations involved in producing the BAP 2030 (see the Foreword) for Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes commit to the following, in working to bring the BAP 2030 aim, objectives and principles into fruition.

The organisations agree to:

1. Work collaboratively with the NEP and its partners towards achieving the overall aim and objectives of the BAP 2030;
2. Uphold the principles set out in the BAP 2030 in delivering the actions identified;
3. Work together, alongside the NEP's partners and others, to explore, identify and deliver appropriate area-wide actions, as identified in Chapter 4 of the Action Plan;
4. Work alongside organisations with interests in particular National Character Areas (NCA) in Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes, to explore, identify and deliver appropriate actions identified for those areas within the BAP 2030 at Chapter 4;
5. Commit officer time to an ongoing Nature Recovery Working Group, run by the NEP, and which would report to the NEP's Delivery Group, to focus on specific aspects of BAP delivery, including reviewing, improving and working on, at least, in the first few years of delivery:
  - i) Data availability for (and further strengthening of) monitoring progress with achieving BAP 2030;
  - ii) Engaging and working with landowners to encourage sustainable land management;
  - iii) Habitat delivery: identifying what, when and how, coordinating delivery and funding input;
  - iv) Engaging people with nature;
  - v) Assist the NEP, wherever possible, in reviewing progress in delivering the Action Plan, including provision of appropriate data, analysis and participation in NEP Nature Recovery Working Group meetings.



# Executive Summary

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## The “Forward to 2030” Biodiversity Action Plan for Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes

Biodiversity is intrinsically valuable and underpins the prosperity of our society and economy – but faces significant pressures

- 1 Biodiversity is the key to life.** Not only is the diversity of our wildlife and habitats valuable in its own right, but we rely on biodiversity for food, clean air and water, productive soil, flood protection, control of diseases, and space for recreation. It is crucial to tackling climate change as well as to our entire private, commercial and public infrastructure.<sup>1</sup> A sustainable local economy will require our land resource to be more ecologically robust on a landscape-scale and be one which can provide the fullest spectrum of ecosystem services.
- 2 Our natural environment is the foundation of our health, prosperity, identity, and heritage.** It boasts varied landscapes: from the low-lying farmland of Aylesbury Vale, the floodplain grasslands of the Upper Ray Valley, the ancient woodland, chalk grasslands and internationally important chalk streams of the Chiltern Hills, to the streams and rivers that feed the River Thames.
- 3 However, globally, we are in the middle of a mass extinction event.** Internationally, there has been a 68% decline in global wildlife populations since 1970. In the UK, 41% of species have declined in recent decades and a quarter of the UK’s mammals face extinction.<sup>2</sup> In Buckinghamshire, none of our chalk streams have reached “good” ecological status. The pressures on nature come from and operate at international sources, national and local scales.
- 4 In common with other parts of the country, and particularly the developed south-east, Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes have severely damaged ecosystems as a result of a combination of various pressures,** including climate change, population growth and development, changes in land use and unsustainable land management, the overuse of resources, generation of waste, pollution and pests and diseases.
- 5 These pressures exacerbate the potentially catastrophic loss of species and habitats across the globe,** and can act individually, in combination, consecutively and /or cumulatively. Our responses should therefore be multi-faceted, address biodiversity loss at multiple scales, while seeking to safeguard and improve the provision of nature’s services that we all benefit from.
- 6 Given its importance in underpinning society and economic prosperity, the loss of biodiversity is a concern and threat to all of us.** As a result, there has been a recent flurry of international, national and local policy responses, as outlined at Figure 1, below:

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<sup>1</sup> This conclusion was also recently recognised by the UK Government following the [Dasgupta Review](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/final-report-the-economics-of-biodiversity-the-dasgupta-review), looking at the economics of Biodiversity. Available here: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/final-report-the-economics-of-biodiversity-the-dasgupta-review](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/final-report-the-economics-of-biodiversity-the-dasgupta-review)

<sup>2</sup> State of Nature Report, 2019. This is a health-check on how the UK’s wildlife is fairing, using wildlife data from 50 conservation organisations. Available here: [nbn.org.uk/stateofnature2019/reports/](https://nbn.org.uk/stateofnature2019/reports/)



## **Figure 1: Recent International, National and Local Policy Responses to the global biodiversity emergency**

### **30% by 2030 - United Nations Pledge**

In September 2020, the UK Prime Minister signed up to the United Nations' "Leaders Pledge for Nature" – committing to put nature and biodiversity on a road to recovery by 2030. In doing so, the Prime Minister committed to protect 30% of the UK's land by 2030 – an additional 400,000 hectares, alongside the existing 26% protected through National Park status, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and other protected areas. One year on, the five statutory nature conservation bodies of the UK have now come together to identify, in Nature Positive 2030, how the UK can achieve these commitments and ensure nature recovery plays its role in achieving net zero.

### **The UK's National 25 Year Environment Plan and The Environment Act**

Nationally, the current UK Government published the 25 Year Environment Plan in 2018, which committed to, "within a generation", leaving the natural environment in a better condition than when it was inherited, and which set out strategies including for plants and wildlife and connecting people with nature. The Dasgupta Review published by HM Treasury in February 2021 was the first independent, global review of the economics of biodiversity and set out a framework for incorporating nature into economics and decision-making – and highlighted that significant declines in biodiversity are undermining the productivity, resilience and adaptability of nature. The recognition that nature and biodiversity sustains our economies, livelihoods and well-being is a hugely important step to galvanising support for more urgent and drastic action.

The Environment Act makes net biodiversity gains from new development mandatory, and commits to a nature recovery network at the National scale, with priorities being set locally with broad stakeholder input involved. These Local Nature Recovery Strategies aim to integrate environmental and planning policy and help direct investment to priority areas for biodiversity.

### **Locally**

Locally, the Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes NEP partners are putting forward this revised Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP), the latest in a series stemming back to commitments made at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit.

- 7 **Biodiversity can benefit from a change in approach in our thinking and application.** For example, recreating areas of permanent woodland and grassland provide important re-connected habitats for a range of specialist species and they can also provide natural buffers to flood events which erode soils, lower water quality, flood our homes and damage our economy.
- 8 Our *Forward to 2030* Biodiversity Action Plan is not the first BAP for the area. Previous BAPs have developed both nationally and locally, since the Rio Earth Summit in 1992 (see Figure 3, page 86 for details.)

## How the Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Natural Environment Partnership's new Biodiversity Action Plan differs from previous BAPs

- 9 **This new BAP reviews, updates and refreshes the previous BAP and includes a robust set of targets and actions that we can work together to achieve, over the course of the next decade.**
- 10 **For example, this new BAP includes a broader set of objectives**, still including priority habitat targets—as in previous BAPs—but also now gives more prominence to recognising the importance of creating, enhancing, improving, connecting and managing other habitats too. It sets a series of broader objectives, from ensuring biodiversity objectives and practice are being met in new developments and in urban areas to connecting people with nature.
- 11 **The new BAP also identifies actions to be taken at two scales: those that are relevant across the whole NEP area (Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes); as well as those relevant to a more local level**, taking Natural England's National Character Areas as the basis. The BAP also provides detailed examples of practical activities of each suggested action.
- 12 **Delivery of these actions spatially is encouraged not just within the most important areas for biodiversity action—the "Biodiversity Opportunity Areas" (BOAs, see footnote 19, page 36)—but also in buffering around them and connecting within and between them** into a local ecological network, helping to build resilience to external pressures.
- 13 **So, compared with our previous *Forward to 2020* Biodiversity Action Plan,<sup>3</sup> our new, updated BAP:**
  - **Extends the Priority Habitats biodiversity targets**, set out in our *Forward to 2020* Biodiversity Action Plan,<sup>4</sup> to 2030.
  - **Retains a focus on Biodiversity Opportunity Areas** for the Plan's spatial delivery.
  - **Includes a series of broader, but connected and supporting objectives and principles**, which together encourage the creation, improvement and connection of a broader range of habitats to achieve the Lawton principles of "more, bigger, better and more joined-up".<sup>5</sup>
  - **Provides tailored example actions** needed to achieve the aim and objectives and follow the principles within specific landscape character areas within Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes, using Natural England's National Character Areas as a guide, as well as across the area as a whole.

<sup>3</sup> NEP, "Forward to 2020: Biodiversity Action Plan" (2015). Available here: [bucksmknep.co.uk/projects/forward-to-2020-biodiversity-action/](https://bucksmknep.co.uk/projects/forward-to-2020-biodiversity-action/)

<sup>4</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>5</sup> "**Making Space for Nature**" was an independent review published in 2010 by Professor Sir John Lawton, which reviewed England's wildlife sites and connections between them, and assessed whether they were capable of responding and adapting to the growing challenges of climate change and other demands on the land, and how to address the loss of biodiversity. The review concluded that England's wildlife sites were generally too small and too isolated, leading to species decline. He called for more space for nature, actions across whole landscapes to reverse the effects of fragmentation and degradation, and the importance of establishing strong, connected "coherent and more resilient" ecological networks – suites of high quality wildlife sites with connections between them enabling species to move. This landscape-scale approach is guided by 4 principles: "more, bigger, better and joined". The Government responded within its Natural Environment White Paper in 2011, "**The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature**" which set a vision for the natural environment for the forthcoming 50 years, encouraging partnership-working (and committing to Local Nature Partnerships) across landscape-scales and aiming to leave the environment in a better condition than was inherited. Available here: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-natural-choice-securing-the-value-of-nature](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-natural-choice-securing-the-value-of-nature)

- 14 **Our new BAP also identifies the current and future pressures and threats to our area's biodiversity, and sets out how we intend to work collaboratively to achieve and deliver the BAP's aim, objectives and principles**, particularly in partnership with farmers, land-owners and land managers. The BAP sets out the responsibilities and accountabilities of different organisations and individuals to help collect data, monitor and report on progress and effectiveness, and deliver the BAP. We also highlight where there are gaps in data or deliverability and set out how these should be addressed.

## Looking ahead to Local Nature Recovery Strategies

- 15 The NEP's current BAP is referred to, endorsed and supported in a number of the area's Local Plans, and sets the expert-led view of biodiversity priorities for the next decade. In collaboration with partners working on the NEP's BAP Working Group, who represent mainly conservation, wildlife and landscape-based organisations, the BAP Working Group's thinking in revising the BAP were fed into and supported the Buckinghamshire pilot Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) process (completed in May 2021).<sup>6</sup> The LNRSs aim to set biodiversity priorities whilst achieving broader environmental outcomes and taking into account a wide range of stakeholder opinions.
- 16 **This BAP will serve as the interim biodiversity strategy for nature's recovery until such time as finalised LNRSs are in place across Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes.** The NEP's partners intend for this new BAP 2030 to set the direction and priorities for biodiversity and nature's recovery in the area until then. The NEP is committed to taking the thinking and learning of the BAP through to the next stages of forming the upcoming Local Nature Recovery Strategies covering the NEP's area.

## The Aim and Objectives of the new BAP

- 17 **For biodiversity in Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes to be supported sustainably**, its needs must be **meaningfully integrated into land management beyond protected sites and sites managed for wildlife**. It is not sufficient to rely upon small, fragmented and disconnected wildlife-rich sites such as protected sites and nature reserves.
- 18 **In response to significant and ongoing pressures to our biodiversity** internationally, nationally, and across Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes, **the Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Natural Environment Partnership has set out, in its new *Forward to 2030 Biodiversity Action Plan***, a strategic aim to reverse biodiversity decline, whilst at the same time to create more, bigger and a better quality of connected and resilient habitats by 2030.

### Forward to 2030: Strategic Aim

**The Forward to 2030 Biodiversity Action Plan aims to reverse biodiversity decline** by working together to create **more, bigger, better and more joined-up habitats** across Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes by 2030.

<sup>6</sup> Outputs from the pilot Buckinghamshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy are available on the NEP website: [bucks.mknep.co.uk/nature-strategy/outputs](https://bucks.mknep.co.uk/nature-strategy/outputs)



19 **The objectives set by the BAP to achieve the strategic aim are as follows** (for further details of the objectives and principles of the BAP, see Chapter 1):

1. **Retain, enhance, expand and create priority habitats everywhere**, with a focus on BOAs and strategically-identified areas
2. **Increase the overall land area of wildlife-important habitats** and of land positively managed for wildlife and high nature value habitats
3. **Enhance existing habitats and improve habitat condition**
4. **Create and manage buffers** around existing and new areas of priority habitat and other core and high-quality biodiversity and habitat sites following best practice guidelines
5. **Connect quality habitats across the landscape** to enable species movement across larger areas to improve habitat and species resilience to external pressures, with a focus on connectivity within and between BOAs as well as into the wider landscape
6. **Improve people's connectedness with nature**, so that communities across Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes value and understand the role of nature in mental and physical wellbeing
7. **Ensure biodiversity is a key factor in the design of the urban environment** and of new developments

### Area-wide actions to achieve the new BAP objectives: a summary

20 **Below is a summary of area-wide Actions linked to each of the seven objectives in the new BAP** (see Chapter 4 for further details of area-wide and NCA-specific action plans). These are grouped into actions according to Lawton's principles to improve habitats and connectivity (per Paragraph 13 and footnote 5):

#### *More and bigger*

#### **1 Retain, enhance, expand and create priority habitats everywhere, with a focus on Biodiversity Opportunity Areas and strategically-identified areas**

Actions:

- **Create or enhance priority habitat so as to increase the area of each priority habitat within Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes per Table 1, page 21**
- **Seek stronger protection for priority habitats**

## 2 Increase the overall land area of wildlife-important habitats and of land positively managed for wildlife and high nature value habitats...<sup>7</sup>

*...both via designated nature conservation sites (expansion of existing sites and creation of new ones) and elsewhere, to achieve at least a "doubling of nature" (land in positive management for wildlife) by 2030.*

### Actions:

- **Promote the uptake of land management schemes** so that more hectares are in positive management for wildlife
- **Promote and support landowner and farmer-led initiatives**
- **Restore, enhance, expand or create, and manage habitats, such as:**
  - Species-rich grassland (including wet grassland)
  - Native, semi-natural woodland
  - Scrub and edge habitats, and scrubby grassland (e.g. road verges, hedgerows)
  - Wildflower-rich meadows and wildflower verges
- **Manage public open space to be 10% more wild by 2030**
- **Increase investment in identifying, creating, expanding, extending and managing the area of core and high quality biodiversity sites, including:**
  - Local Wildlife Sites
  - Sites of Special Scientific Interest
  - Nature Reserves

## Better

### 3 Enhance existing habitats and improve habitat condition

#### Actions:

- Follow best practice for wildlife on farmland to improve biodiversity
- Support catchment-based principles and management plans for improving water quality and flows
- Engage the public in managing land for wildlife (particularly in urban areas)
- Engage other sectors in caring for biodiversity
- Facilitate Natural Flood Management Schemes in the areas shown in Figure 4, page 95
- Incorporate well-designed green infrastructure in both existing and within new development

<sup>7</sup> This is in the context of the collective Local Nature Partnerships' ambition for the Growth Arc, which calls for a "doubling of nature" (available here: [bucks.mknep.co.uk/projects/doubling-nature/](https://bucks.mknep.co.uk/projects/doubling-nature/)), and which has become one of the agreed Environmental Principles (Principle 2a) of the OxCam Growth Arc (available here: [www.semlep.com/modules/downloads/download.php?file\\_name=2306](https://www.semlep.com/modules/downloads/download.php?file_name=2306)).

#### **4 Create and manage buffers around existing and new areas of priority habitat and other core and high-quality biodiversity and habitat sites following best practice guidelines...**

*...to improve resilience and enhance the visual characteristics of the landscape.*

**Actions:**

- **Create and manage buffers and/or improve land surrounding existing and new areas of priority habitat as well as around other core and high quality biodiversity and habitat sites.**

#### *More joined-up*

#### **5 Connect quality habitats across the landscape to enable species movement across larger areas to improve habitat and species resilience to external pressures, with a focus on connectivity within and between BOAs as well as into the wider landscape**

*Actions are needed to both reduce the risk of biodiversity loss and to provide opportunities for biodiversity to migrate and adapt to changing circumstances. Improved connectivity can provide important re-connected habitats for a range of specialist species and they can also provide natural buffers to flood events which erode soils, lower water quality, flood our homes and damage our economy.*

**Actions:**

- **Improve habitat connectivity within and between the Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (Map 10, page 113; also see paragraph 5.4, page 112), by improving and linking existing habitats as well as creating new habitats**
- **Ensure new habitats improve landscape connectivity**
- **Create habitat mosaics of good quality, diverse habitats throughout the landscape to enhance connectivity for a range of species**
- **Promote cooperative land management across wider areas to support larger and better-integrated resources for wildlife and a sense of connectivity**
- **Work with neighbouring authorities or organisations to link habitats across borders and work at the landscape-scale towards a cohesive ecological network.**

## 6 Improve people's connectedness with nature so that communities across Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes value and understand the role of nature in mental and physical wellbeing...

*...also to increase and improve accessibility of nature-rich spaces, while maintaining and enhancing their biodiversity value.*

Actions:

- Work towards achieving the NEP's Green Infrastructure (GI) "Vision and principles for the Improvement of GI across Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes"<sup>8</sup> which aims to provide, connect, improve and protect GI assets, including blue infrastructure, and their benefits, into the long-term
- Engage the public in managing land for wildlife, e.g. gardens, community spaces
- Use nature-based solutions to support wildlife and adaptation to climate change, i.e. to reduce resource-use, reduce the risk of biodiversity loss as a result of climate change, and to provide opportunities for biodiversity to adapt to changing circumstances

## 7 Ensure biodiversity is a key factor in the design of the urban environment and of new developments

Actions:

- Maintain existing green spaces and create new, connected green spaces as part of new development schemes which incorporate features for biodiversity
- Ensure that spatial planning and design for urban development and infrastructure aim to reduce surface water run-off, protect and restore habitats, improve the quality of rivers and groundwater, and so protect drinking water supplies

### Delivering the Plan - the NEP's new Nature Recovery Working Group

- 21 As set out on page 2, the NEP's Partners involved in setting the BAP have committed in this plan to forming a **Nature Recovery Working Group**. This group will work together to produce a prioritised delivery plan and be at the heart of driving forward the actions set out in the BAP to deliver its aim and objectives.
- 22 Dependent on data availability, the NEP will report on progress towards achieving the BAP aims and objectives over the course of the period to 2030.

<sup>8</sup> Available here: [bucks.mknep.co.uk/projects/vision-and-principles-for-the-improvement-of-green-infrastructure/](https://bucks.mknep.co.uk/projects/vision-and-principles-for-the-improvement-of-green-infrastructure/).

## Structure of the BAP

23 Our BAP is set out as follows:

### **Chapter 1: Introduction** (page 15)

This section sets out **the importance of biodiversity, its national and international decline, and the overarching strategic aim and objectives for the Forward to 2030 Action Plan**, alongside a series of principles by which we intend to work to achieve them. The **priority habitat targets** are also set out here.

### **Chapter 2: Context: The Biodiversity of Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes** (page 22)

This Chapter provides the background on the **biodiversity of the area**: the habitats, landscape, our water environment, species of importance and designated areas of protection. Maps are provided showing the **broad habitats and Tables showing the percentage coverage** of each in Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes. The various protections and designations are also described. Background to the **river landscape and urban landscape** of the area is also provided. This section also includes information about the area's **natural capital**, with summaries of the broader benefits, or "ecosystem services", provided by it. Finally, the section also includes a background description of the biodiversity features of the **National Character Areas** (NCAs) that are used in the Action Plan.

### **Chapter 3: Ecosystems under pressure** (page 59)

This Chapter identifies the **significant pressures on biodiversity and ecosystems** across Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes and their impacts on the quality, quantity and resilience of our habitats and wildlife. The impacts are set out in Table 6, and include climate change, development land management, over-abstraction of water, pollution and non-native species, diseases and pests, as well as the impact of policy changes. The section also highlights **specific pressures relevant to each of the 4 grouped NCA areas**.

### **Chapter 4: Biodiversity Action Plans for Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes** (page 83)

In response, this Chapter sets out the **details of the new Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Biodiversity Action Plan—what is needed and where—to meet the overall BAP aim and objectives**.

The Chapter provides both action plans as well as examples of how to deliver them, **at two scales**: those applicable across **the whole of Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes**; and more local actions applicable to specific **National Character Areas**.

The actions set out are those that the NEP advocates should be taken to protect, enhance, improve and connect biodiversity across Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes.



## Chapters 5 and 6: Delivery: where? (page 110) and Delivery: Who, How and When? (page 118)

These Chapters look at where to **prioritise action to achieve the BAP's strategic aim and series of objectives**, and **who will be responsible for taking it, how and when**. More specifically:

**Chapter 5** sets out how **Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOAs)** are still considered to be the **most important areas for biodiversity action in the area**, in terms of restoring nature. Action taken within BOAs to restore, improve and connect biodiversity, particularly priority habitats, is the highest priority. Actions to create other habitats outside BOAs but informed by other NEP work (e.g. natural capital habitats creation opportunity mapping, green infrastructure opportunity mapping, biodiversity net gain priority offset location mapping), is considered the next priority, with the lowest priority actions, although which can be very beneficial, related to actions anywhere else across the area and not informed by, or which adhere to, the NEP's mapping work.

**Chapter 6** sets out the importance of the NEP's new **Nature Recovery Working Group**, working alongside other partners and sectors, to the **Governance and delivery of the BAP**. It also emphasises the importance of data, monitoring, reporting, and engagement with landowners, farmers, and land managers. We also cover the **need for sufficient resources** to support all of these actions and outline the **responsibilities of different stakeholders** and how they can help to support achieving the aim and objectives.

*Forward to 2030: The Biodiversity Action Plan for Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes* is available to view and to download in full from the Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Natural Environment Partnership website: [www.bucksmknep.co.uk/forward-to-2030](http://www.bucksmknep.co.uk/forward-to-2030)