

Suffolk's Journey to Net Zero

A perspective from the County Council

Ned Harrison, Suffolk County Council
Carbon Negative Nature Positive Programme Manager
9th May 2024

Political commitments

- Net zero carbon emissions for **SCC operations** by 2030
- Work with organisations and communities to aim for a net zero Suffolk at the earliest opportunity - **Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan**
- Positively enhance the biodiversity value of at least 30% of SCC land and assets by 2030 and work with partners and stakeholders to achieve a similar goal across Suffolk



The Suffolk Climate

Emergency Plan

Our journey to Net Zero



Suffolk's public sector leaders have all set out and committed to pursue net zero strategies in our own organisations that respond to local, national, and international evidence. Furthermore, we will all work together to support and guide our residents, communities, and businesses to make the changes required to best set Suffolk on the path to net zero by 2030.



Towards a carbon neutral Suffolk – The challenge, our sector goals and actions

Split across 5 sectors are 20 goals and 102 actions, of which 25 are Priority Actions.

The challenge



4.2 million tCO₂

The CO₂ emissions across the county of Suffolk in 2018.



1.5°C

The limit of global temperature rise beyond which we risk triggering dangerous climate change.



Timeline

The point at which, at current rates, the world is locked into more than 1.5°C of warming.



Carbon neutral 2030

Aspiration to make the county of Suffolk carbon neutral by 2030.

Sector goals and actions



Collaborative action



Sustainable homes



Low carbon transport



Industrial and commercial energy use

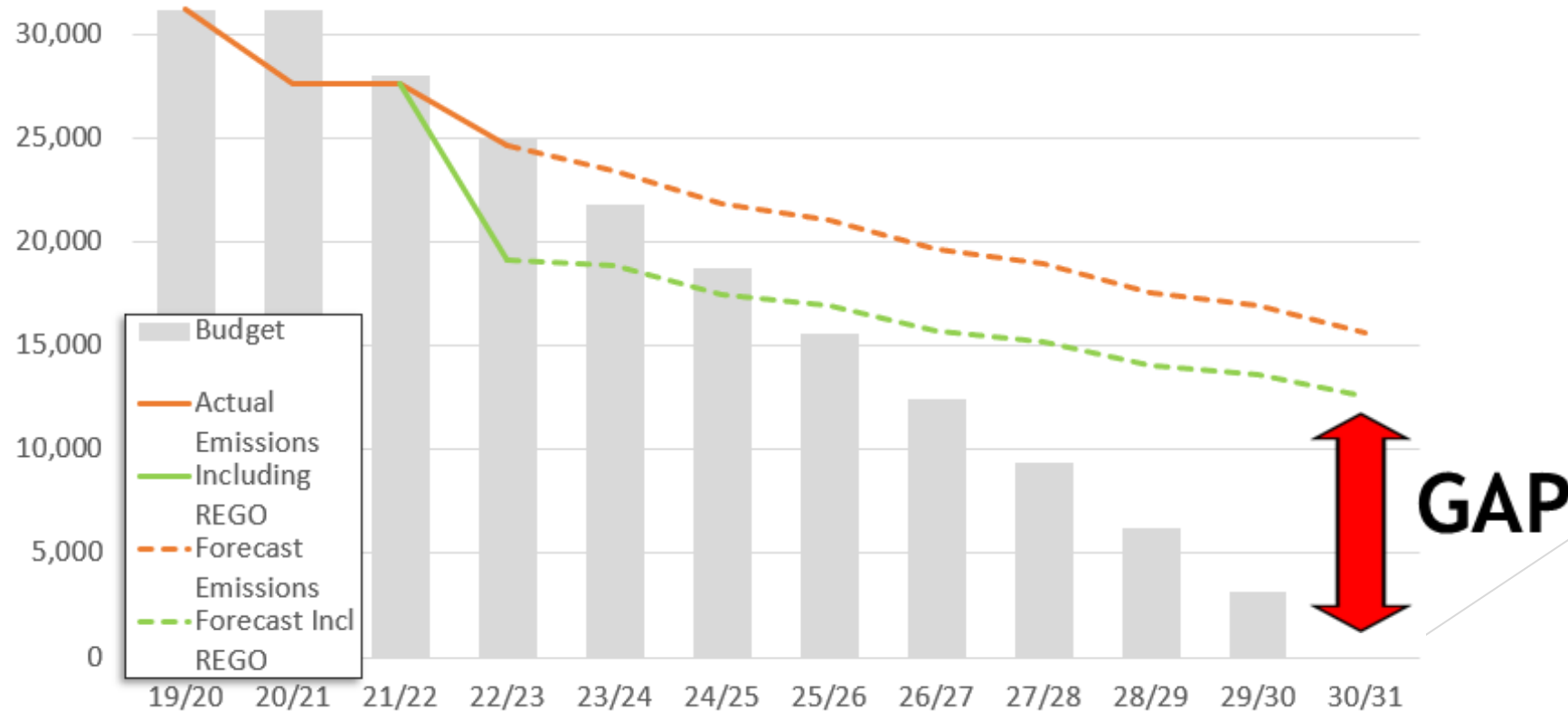


Cleaner power

Carbon Negative - Monitoring



- ▶ The Carbon Budget monitors headline progress towards Net Zero. It is made of the carbon emissions (footprint) and expected reductions (the 'pathway') to 2030.
- ▶ Net Zero is achieved by maximising the reduction, then capturing and storing the residual, reducing the **GAP** to zero.



Caveat

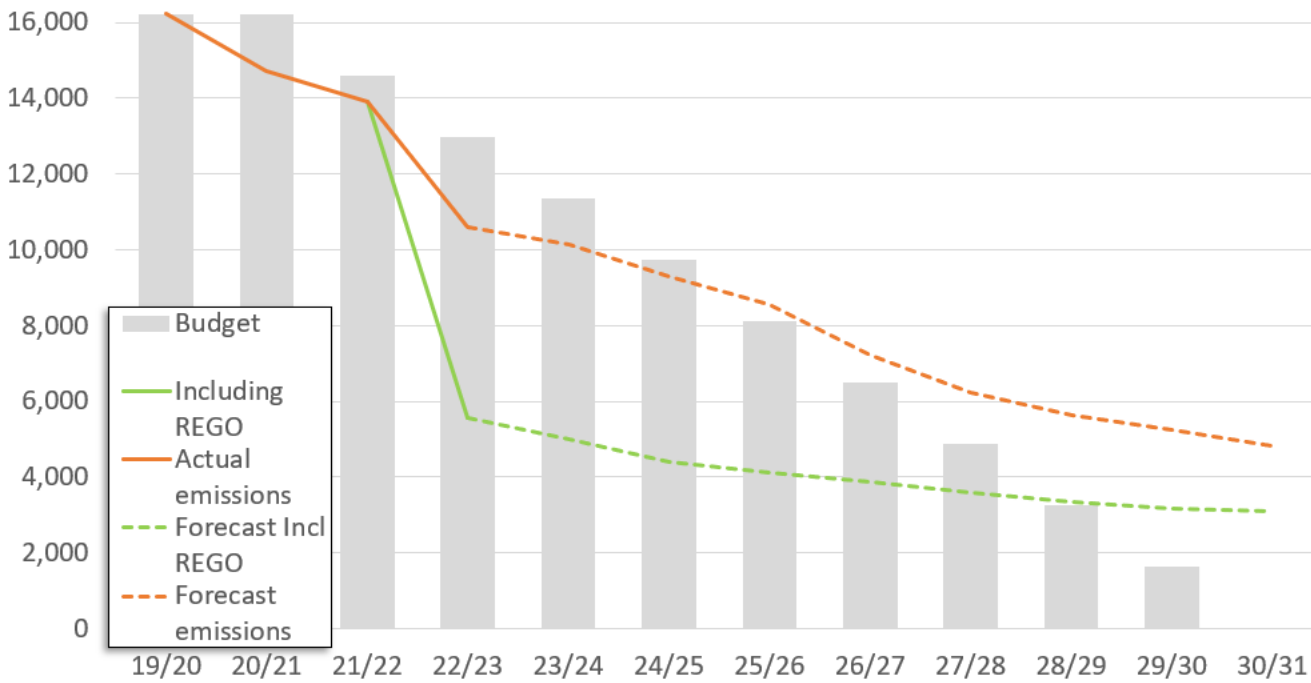
Reported SCC emissions will rise as we develop methods of measuring the true carbon cost of everything we do.

Projected Emissions by Scope

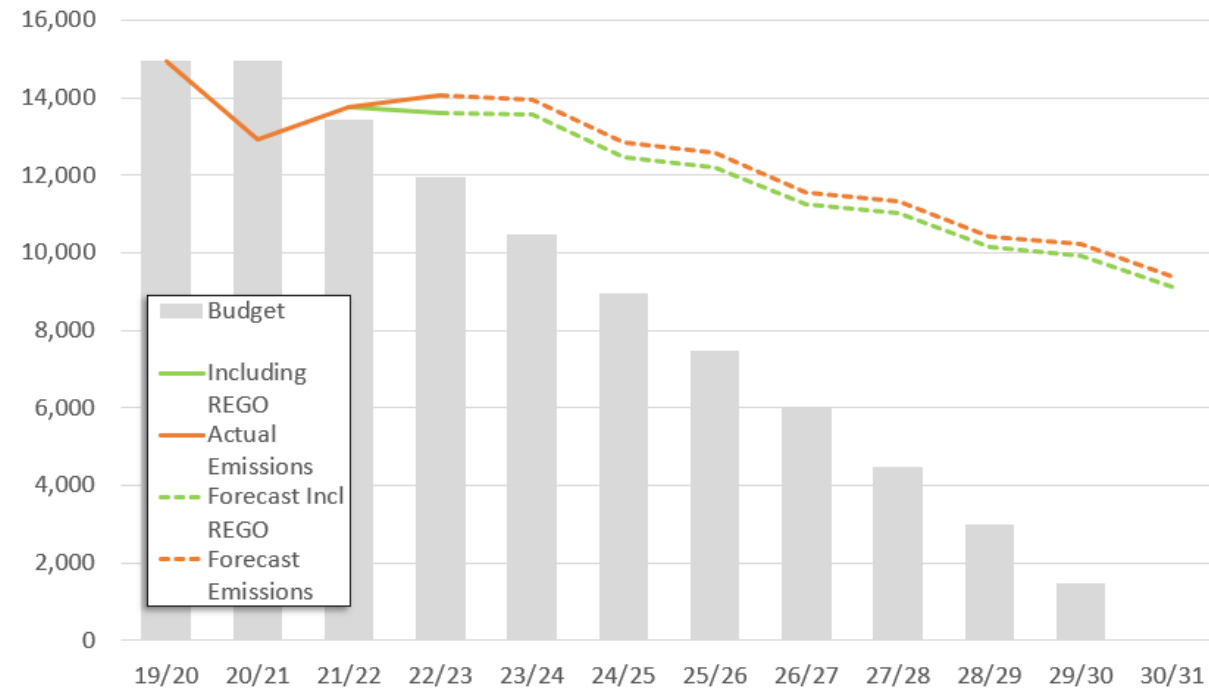
Scope	Definition
Scope 1 (Energy - direct)	Emissions that occur directly from sites or assets owned or controlled by the organisation, e.g. gas boilers at own premises, fleet vehicles.
Scope 2 (Energy - indirect)	Emissions from purchased energy generated elsewhere e.g. electricity, heat or steam.
Scope 3 (Other indirect)	Emissions that occur due to the organisation's activities/products/services, but that are not directly owned or controlled by the organisation e.g. travel in employee-owned vehicles, public transport, purchased goods and services and waste disposal.



Scopes 1 & 2



Scope 3



Footprint Breakdown

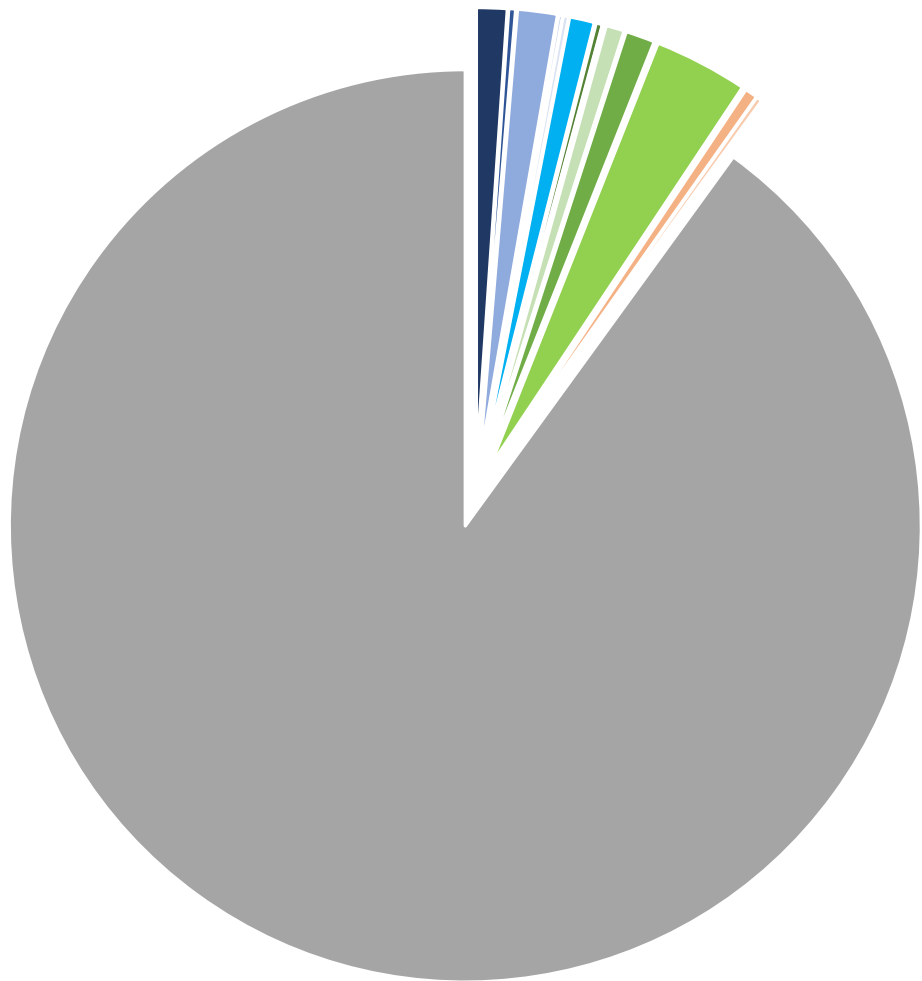


- Corporate Property
- Fire Stations
- Schools
- Libraries
- Other Property
- Street & traffic lights
- Pool Cars
- Fire Fleet

- Other Fleet
- Grey Fleet
- Plane & Train Travel
- Commuting
- School Transport
- Homeworking
- Waste, Water & Refrigerants
- Supply Chain

	Total Share	SCC Managed
Fixed Assets	46%	26%
Travel	54%	3%

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Caveat

An estimated 91% of emissions within the supply chain are excluded from the totals shown here

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Delivering Reductions



Fixed Assets - Buildings & Streetlights

- £1.2m spent out of £12.8m budget for estate decarbonisation
- Renewables, insulation, destratification & building management systems
- 38% reduction in gas use from corporate estate, with cost avoidance of over £800k over programme to date
- Upgrading 43,400 streetlights has reduced carbon by 2,200 tonnes since 19/20

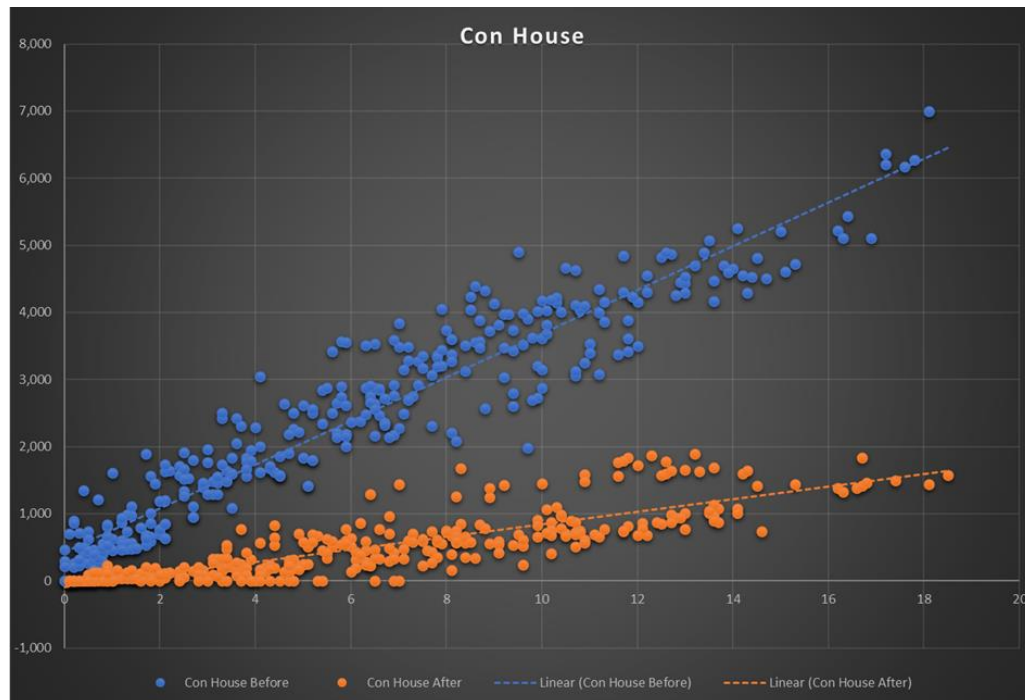


Transportation - SCC owned vehicles, contractor and staff mileage

- Electrifying all pool cars by end of financial year. Ongoing smaller fleet vehicles
- Charge points across estate support transition to electric
- 80% discounts for staff commuting by train, subsidised by car parking charges
- Running school transport contracts to minimise mileage



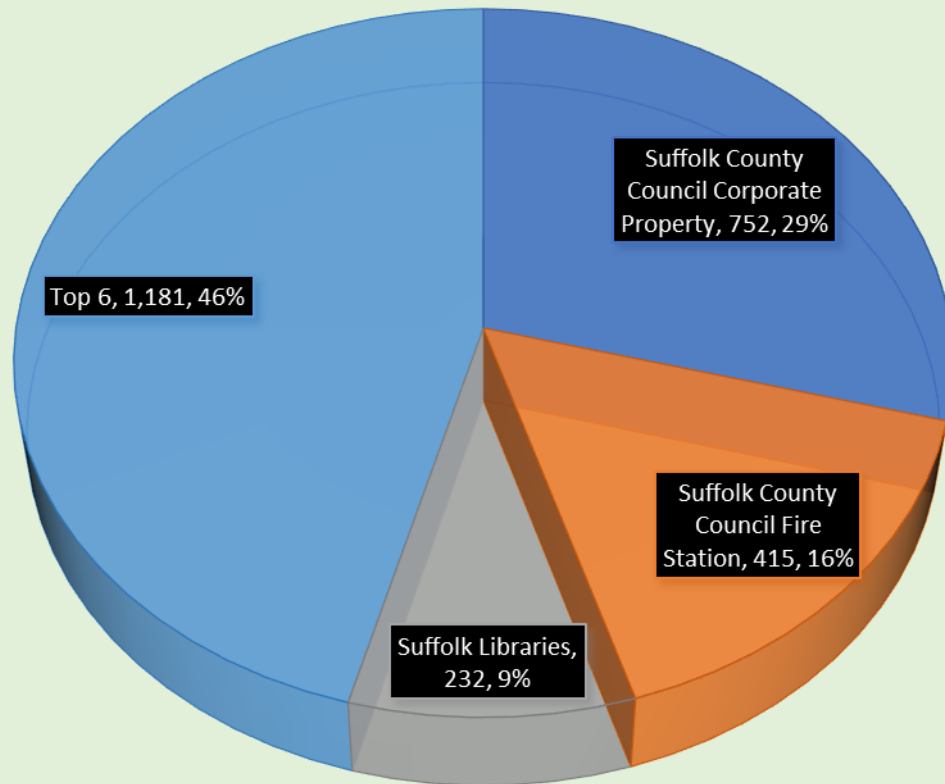
Case Study: Buildings - Constantine House



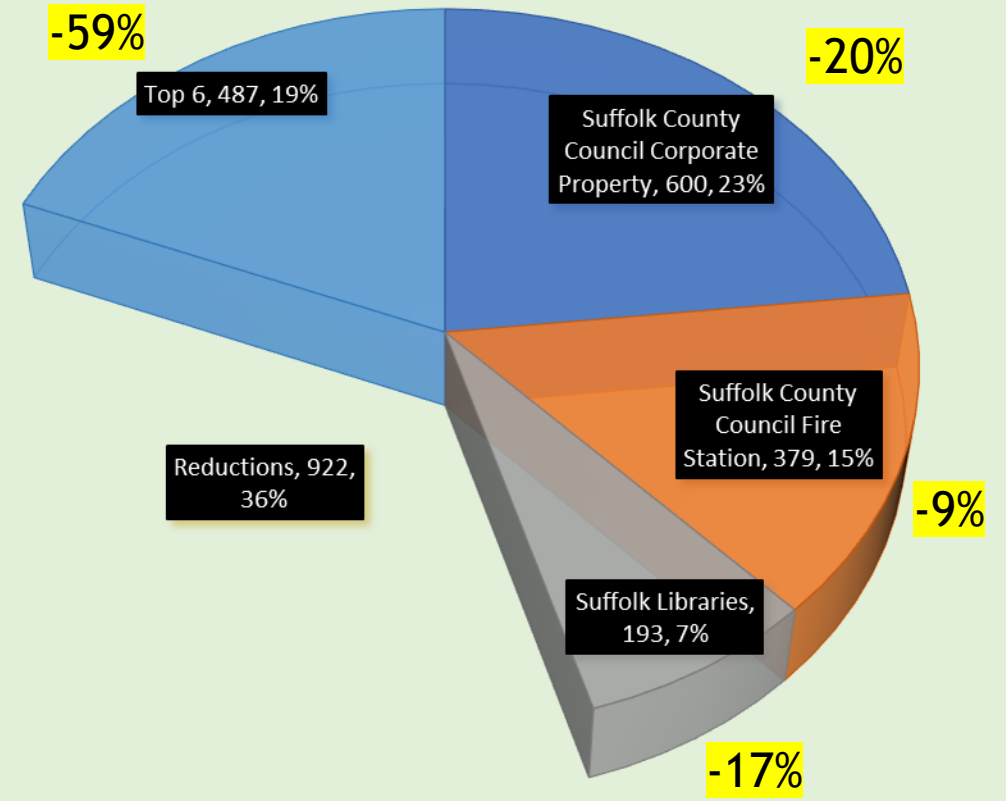
- Reduced Boiler Calls
- Reduced Boiler Flow Temperatures
- Reduced Time Schedules

Reductions from our Buildings

GAS BASELINE (TONNES OF CARBON)



CURRENT GAS USE (TONNES OF CARBON)



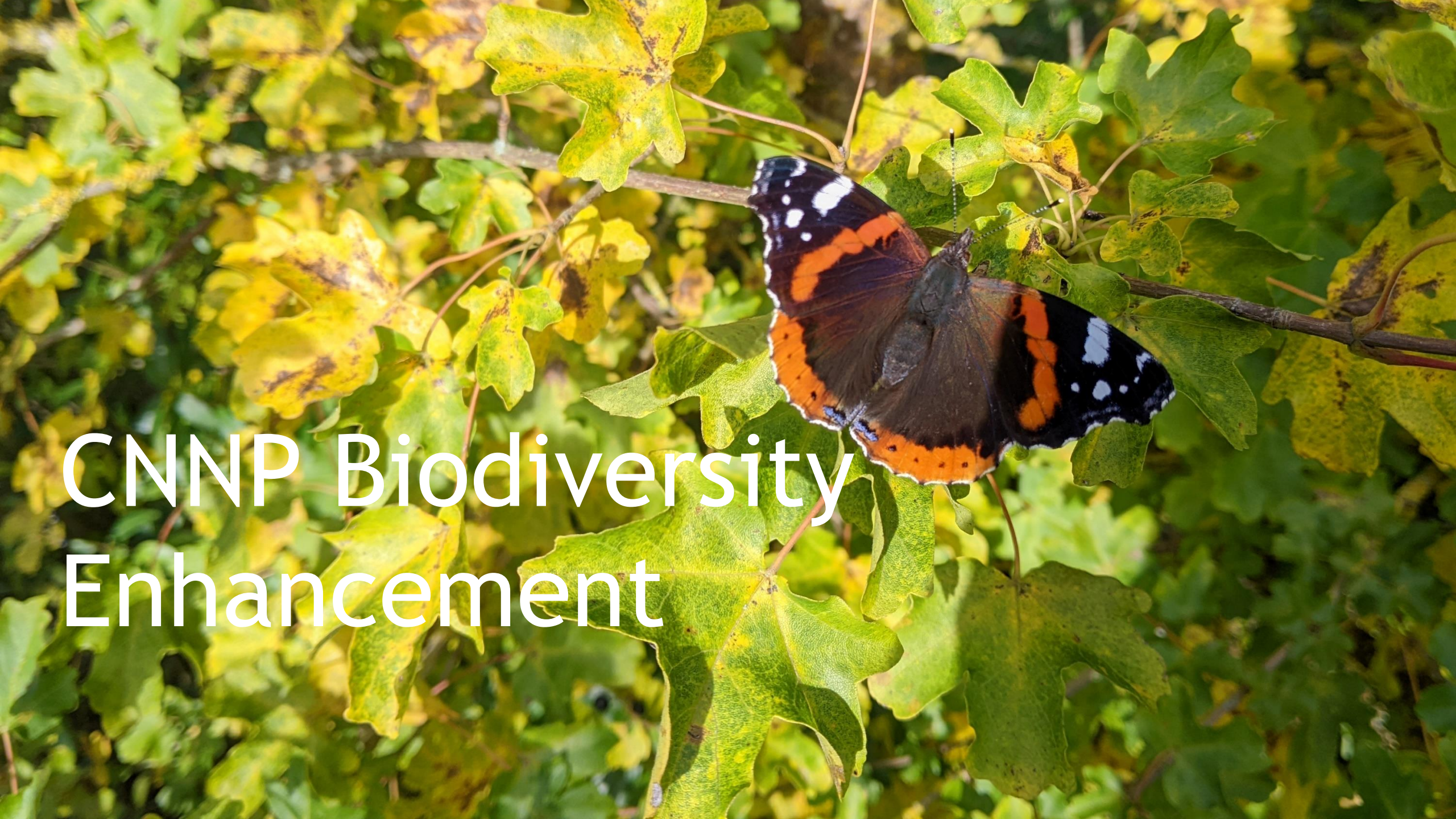
Our Ask Of Our Supply Chain

Climate Change
Commercial Ask |
Suffolk County
Council

Supply Chain

Our ask of our contractors is to: -

- know the impact that your organisation has on the environment;
- have an Environmental Policy that embeds a culture of reducing negative environmental impacts within your organisation;
- ensure your environmental impact is measured and regularly reported and overseen at the highest level;
- reduce negative environmental impacts with a clear action plan outlining the work to be undertaken focusing on the biggest impacts, with key targets and timelines to the actions to be undertaken for example;
 - [if you use travel](#), reduce your mileage. For the miles that you are not able to reduce, travel in more environmentally friendly ways;
 - if you use building/s ensure that you have had Environmental building survey/s undertaken and mitigated the negative environmental impact;
- [work with your supply chain to know the environmental impact](#) of the goods/services you purchase and mitigate/reduce the negative impact, where the negative impact is not able to be reduced, offset the impact;
- work towards your organisation also being Carbon Net Zero by 2030.



CNNP Biodiversity Enhancement

Baselining the 30%



Category	Total/ ha	%	In Scope	%
Schools	832	7%	414	7%
County Farms	4,962	42%	4,962	79%
Other	495	4%	286	4%
Highways	3,859	32%	458	7%
Footways	1,759	15%	145	2%
Total	11,907		6,265	

- ▶ Total land is 11,907 hectares (est)
- ▶ Not all land is suitable for biodiversity enhancement (e.g. roadways; office buildings)
- ▶ Baseline is set at land that could be enhanced

County Farms

Completed Action

- Revised the tenancy criteria
- UEA study into biodiversity potential on county farms
- Surveyed current tenant farmers

Ongoing Action

- Subsidised consultancy offer to tenant farmers
- Engagement opportunities (sharing best practice)
- Landowner support with Environmental Land Management schemes.



Other Landholdings

In Progress

- Audits of biodiversity in the field
- Development of a plan for nature recovery in consultation with the Suffolk Wildlife Trust

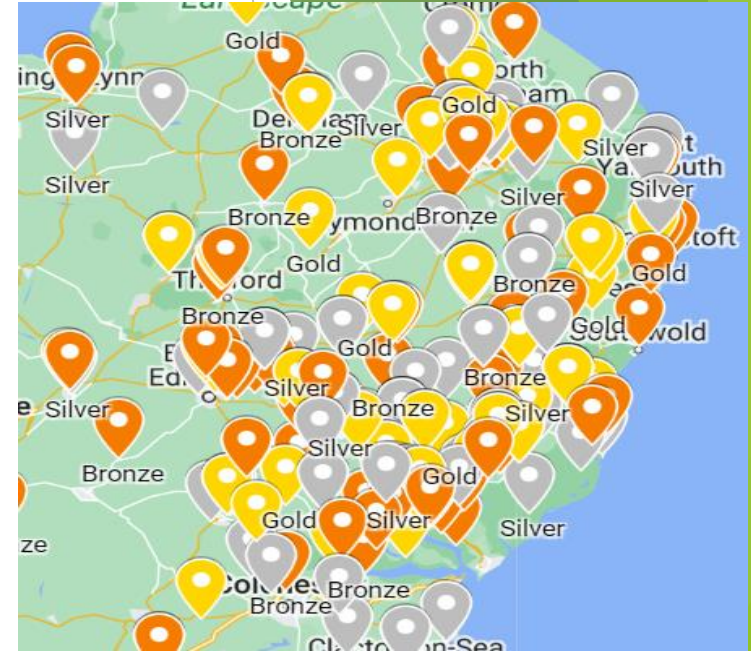
Actions to include:

- Tree planting
- Hedge planting
- Pond creation
- Creation of hibernaculum



Industrial & Commercial Emissions theme updates

- ▶ SCEP-funded Consultancy supported 670 businesses to save >1,100 tCO₂e
<https://carboncharter.org/suffolk-business-consultancy/>
- ▶ >500 businesses accredited to the Carbon Charter
- ▶ Transformational proposal focuses on grants, loans and independent advice



Net Zero Innovation Fund SUFFOLK

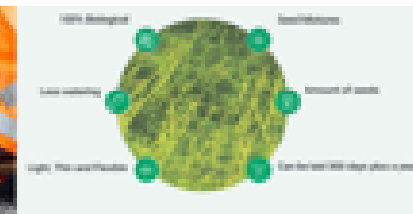
1st four Projects moved to payment

3 more in pipeline – over 50% allocated



NZIFS

**Net Zero
Innovation Fund
Suffolk**



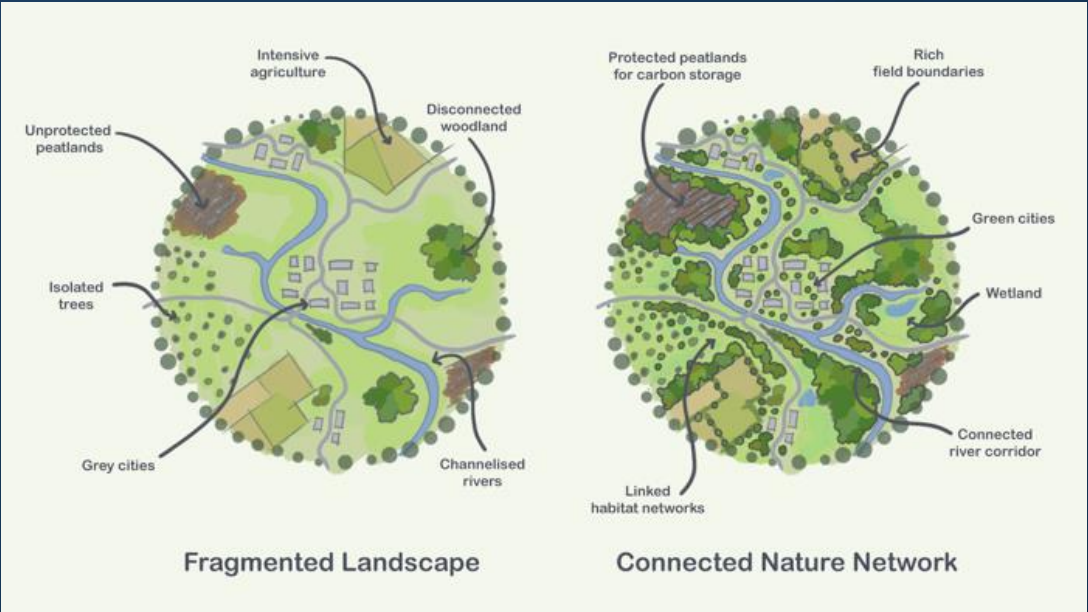


Norfolk & Suffolk
Nature Recovery Partnership

Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Situation

The current system of designated spaces for wildlife is not working to prevent the decline of species. Something must be done to improve nature “networks”!



Fragmented Landscape

Connected Nature Network

Solution

A new, mandatory strategy that will show areas of opportunity to improve nature for the benefit of wildlife and people.

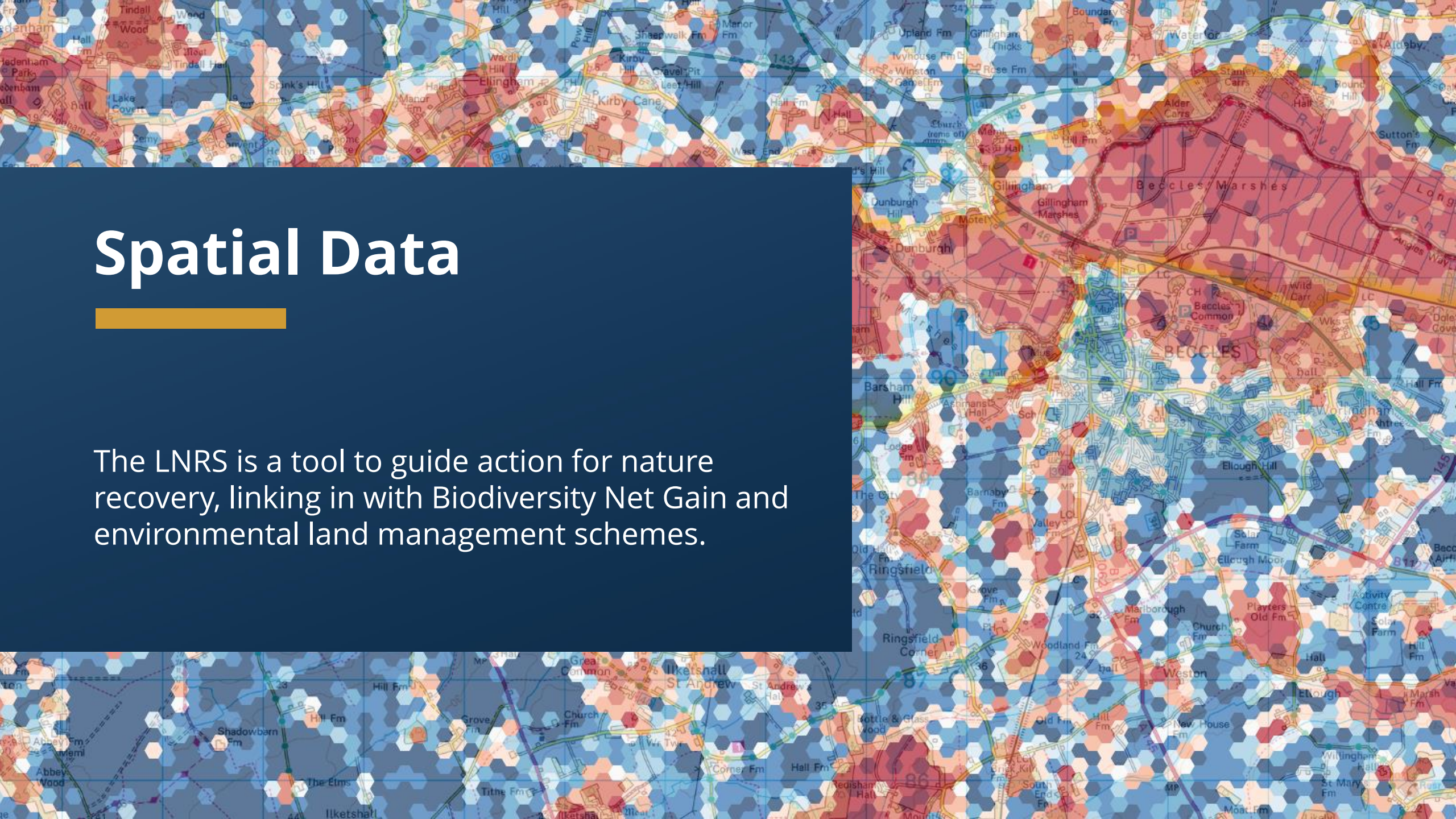
48 “Responsible Authorities” have been designated, of which SCC is one.

Strategies must be agreed and supported by local planning authorities



Spatial Data

The LNRS is a tool to guide action for nature recovery, linking in with Biodiversity Net Gain and environmental land management schemes.



LNRS Steering Group & Themed Working Groups

Norfolk & Suffolk

Nature Recovery Partnership



Nature Recovery Partnership
Steering Group



Themed Working Groups



Mapping



Water and
Coast



Planning
(Suffolk)



Planning
(Norfolk)

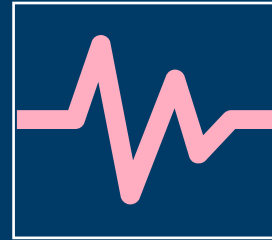


Species and
Biodiversity

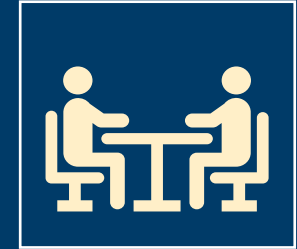


Land
Management

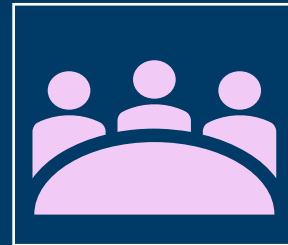
LNRS Sector Groups and Communities



Health, Wellbeing
and Access



Business and Leisure



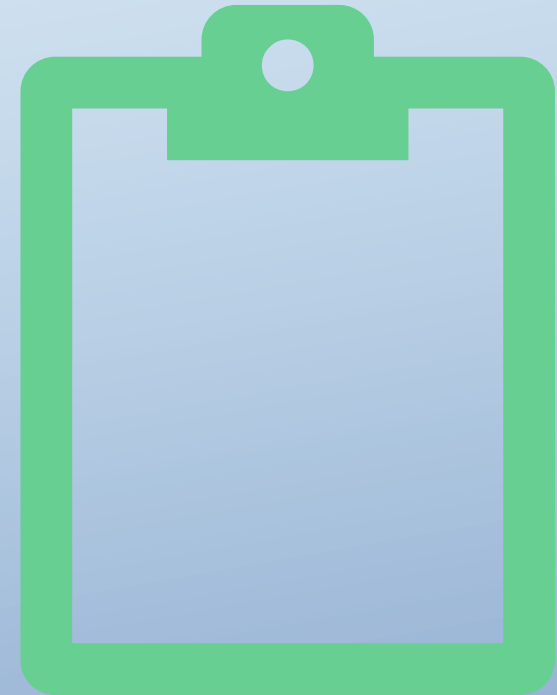
Parish and
Town Councils



Local Communities

Public and Land Management Surveys

- Public Survey: [Suffolk Local Nature Recovery Strategy \(LNRS\) Public Survey \(arcgis.com\)](#)
- Land Management Survey: [Suffolk LNRS Land Management Survey \(arcgis.com\)](#)
- Surveys open until 30th June 2024



Charter Summer Event – The Coddenham Centre Thursday 11th July 2024, 2.30 onwards

Newly re-accredited at GOLD level



Keynote speakers

Michael Strand – Suffolk Wildlife Trust

Jonathan Warby & Richard Riley – Volvo Electric Trucks UK

Tickets & full itinerary at ...

<https://carboncharter.org/events/save-the-date-a-new-venue-for-the-charter-summer-event/>