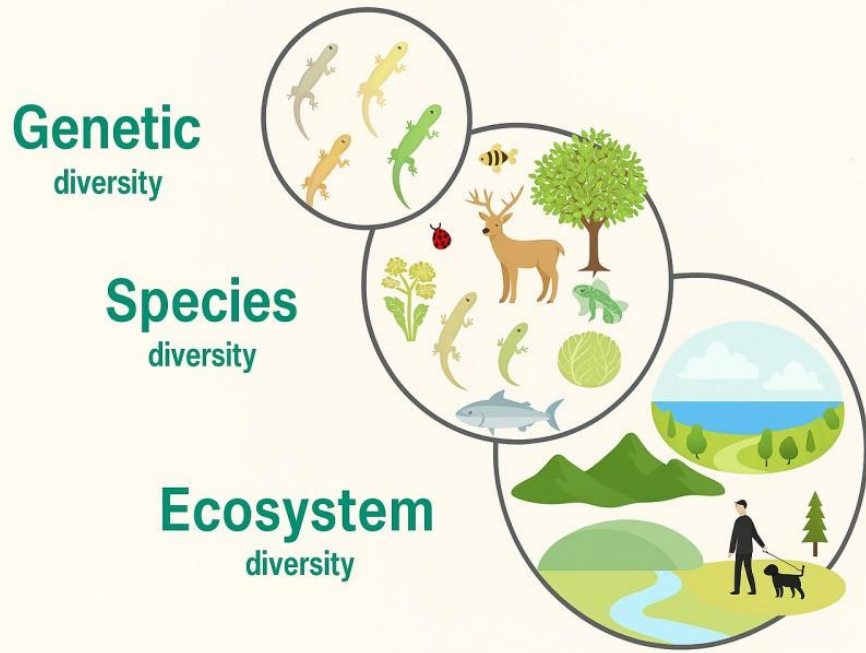


Broadland District Council's Future for Nature Fund Workshop resources



What is Biodiversity and why it is important



- Biodiversity is the variety of all life on Earth - animals, plants, fungi and micro-organisms like bacteria.
- Together they provide us with everything necessary for survival - including fresh water, clean air, food and medicines.
- However, humans cannot get these benefits from individual species - a rich variety of living things must work together in tandem.
- Plants are very important for improving the physical environment: cleaning the air, limiting rising temperatures and providing protection against climate change.



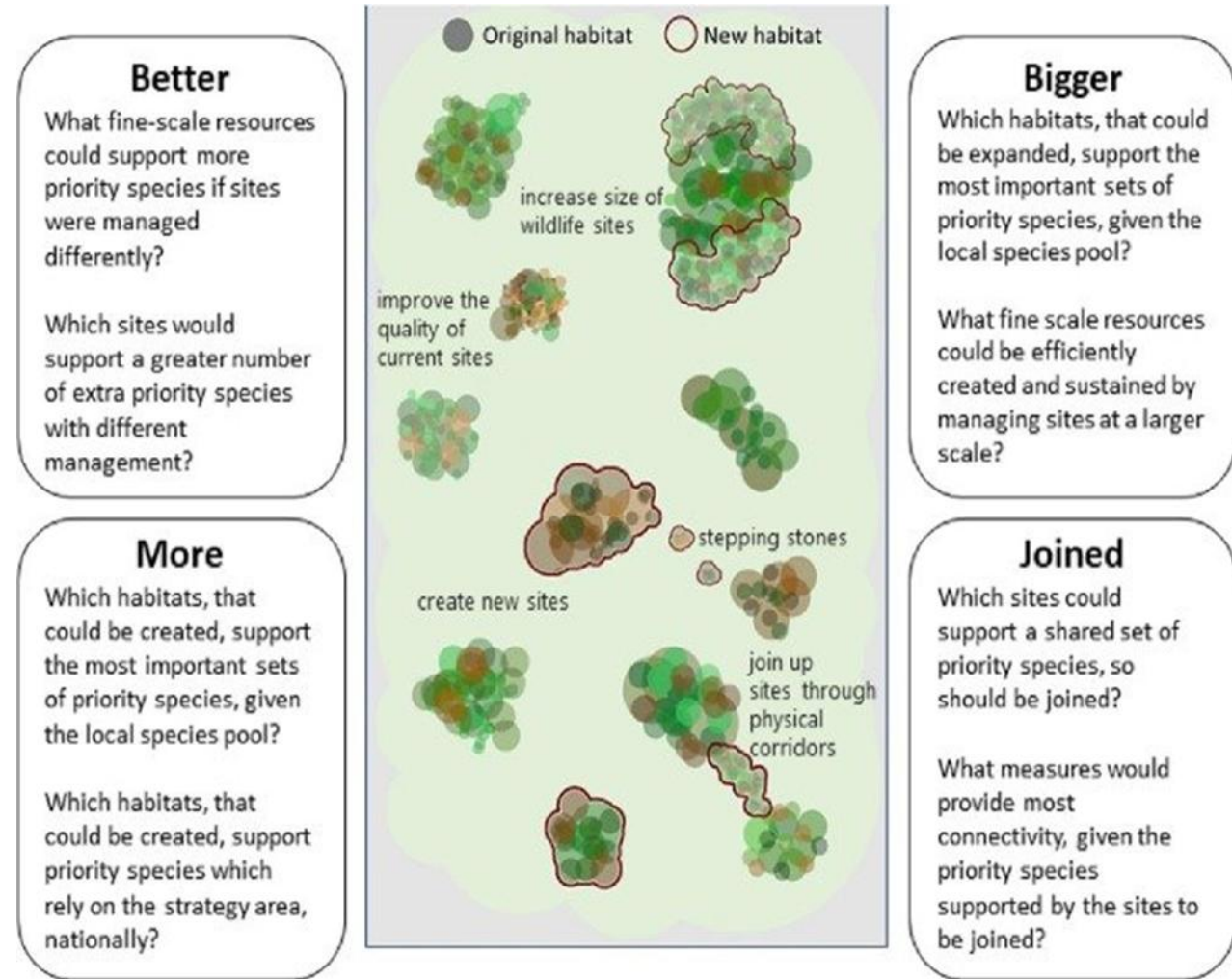
BIODIVERSITY

EXPLAINED

The Lawton Principle

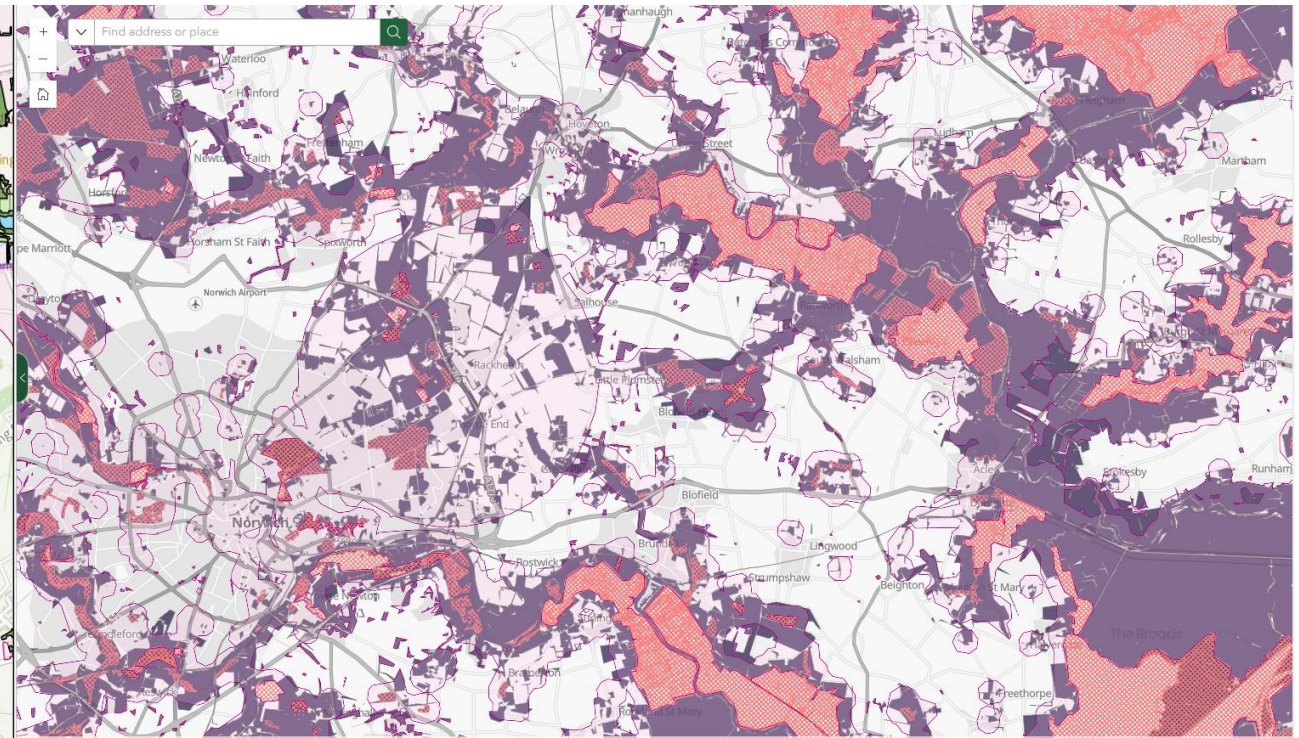
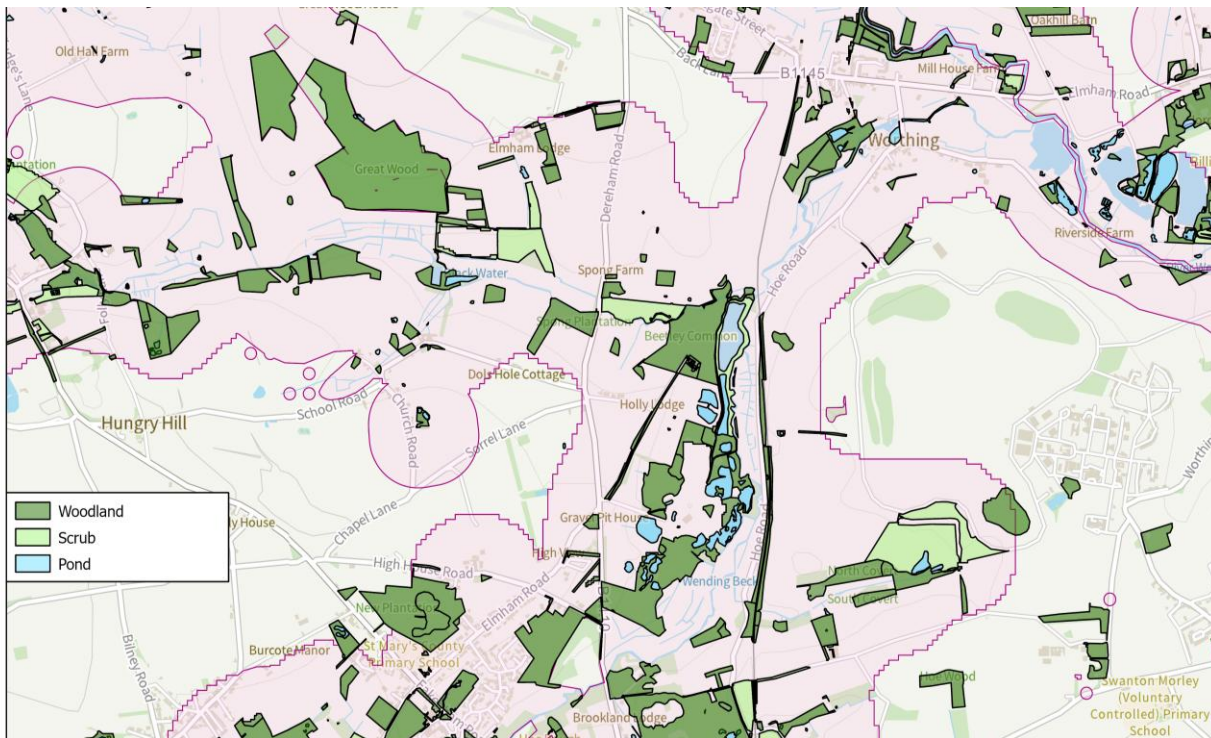
The **Lawton Principles**, derived from the review "Making Space for Nature" led by Professor Sir John Lawton, advocate for a landscape-scale approach to conservation. They are summarized as "**more, bigger, better, and joined**", emphasizing the need for:

- **More:** Increasing the number of wildlife sites.
- **Bigger:** Expanding the size of existing sites.
- **Better:** Improving the quality of these sites.
- **Joined:** Enhancing connectivity between sites to create a coherent ecological network.



Norfolk Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)

Lawton Principles in action



Ecosystem services

Biodiversity is more than just wildlife; it underpins the natural systems that support our lives. Through what are known as ecosystem services, nature delivers vital benefits to people, communities and the economy.



Clean Air & Water

Woodlands and wetlands filter pollution and improve the quality of the air we breathe and the water we use.



Climate Regulation

Trees and soils store carbon and cool our towns and cities, helping us adapt to climate change.



Flood Protection

Natural landscapes absorb rain and reduce flood risk, protecting homes and infrastructure.



Health & Wellbeing

Access to nature-rich spaces boosts physical and mental health, reduces stress and supports active lifestyles.



Food & Pollination

Pollinators like bees thrive in biodiverse environments and are essential for crops and food security.



Culture & Learning

Nature inspires, educates and connects us to our sense of place, heritage and community.

Future for Nature Fund

Grant objectives: Supporting and encouraging biodiversity, carbon sequestration, and improving access to nature

Who can apply: Town and Parish Councils, community groups, charities, schools.

What's available: 10 grants of up to £5,000 per project.

Eligible projects: Miyawaki Forests, pond creation and restoration, and access to nature.

Project must achieve one of the following:

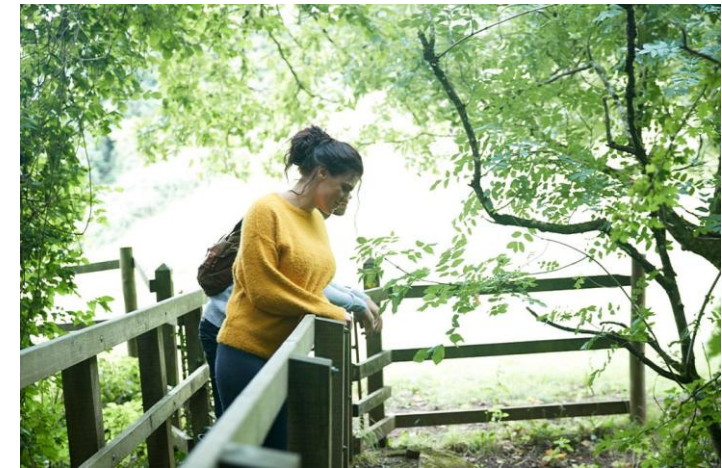
Biodiversity uplift/improvement, carbon sequestration, or improve people's access to nature

The most successful projects will integrate all three objectives seamlessly.



Eligible projects

- Miyawaki Forests
- Pond creation and restoration
- Access to nature
- Project which integrates all three of the above

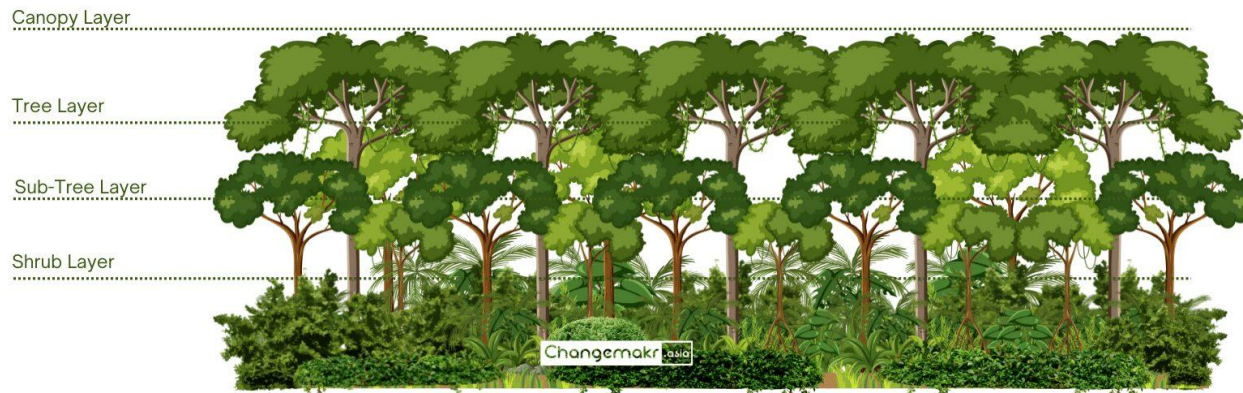


Miyawaki/mini forests

- Miyawaki forests, also known as mini forests, are highly effective for carbon capture due to their dense, fast-growing native species.
- Using native species helps create species rich habitats that boost biodiversity.
- Their multi-layered structure mimics natural forests, supporting rapid, self-sustaining ecosystems.
- This innovative approach is perfect for quickly restoring degraded land and creating urban green spaces.



Miyawaki Forest Layers



Ponds – Restoration or creation

- Healthy, biodiverse ponds improve biodiversity, ecological health and builds resilience to climate change.
- Ghost ponds are ponds that have been either filled in or lost due to a lack of management. If you need support in identifying ghost ponds, the Climate Change and Environment Team can offer specific guidance to applicants.



Circular Walk and ‘Missing Links’

Circular walks:

The aim of this project theme is to improve and promote local walking routes.

Projects can include costs for:

- New footpaths
- Waymarking/signage
- Promotion
- Interpretation boards
- Completing and connecting local networks through (permissive) agreements with landowners



The application process

The Future for Nature Fund opens to applications on Monday 20th October 2025.

The Fund closes to applications on Friday 21st November 2025.

The application form and guidance notes will be available on the website at the end of this week

Important information to include in your application

- Project description and location
- Proof of any permissions required for delivery (ie landowner agreement, planning permission, licenses)
- Project plan
- Budget

What do projects need to consider?

Action to take

- Form a project team with representatives from local stakeholders.
- Conduct a baseline survey of current biodiversity in the area.
- Set clear objectives for the project (e.g., habitat creation, species protection).
- Consult with local experts, environmental groups, and authorities.
- Engage the wider community through meetings or surveys for input and support.
- Identify suitable sites for project activities. Keep in mind the Lawton Principles.
- Develop a project plan, including timelines and resource requirements.
- Seek necessary permissions i.e. planning permission, licenses, landowner permission/agreements
- Organise volunteer days and training sessions.
- Implement project activities as planned.
- Monitor progress and record outcomes.
- Share results and celebrate achievements with the community.

Things to consider when designing a project.

- Potential impact on existing wildlife and habitats.
- Seasonal timing of activities to avoid disturbing breeding or nesting periods.
- Accessibility and inclusivity for all community members.
- Legal obligations, such as protected species or planning regulations.
- Long-term management and responsibility for the project area.
- Long term sustainability of the project. How will future management be funded, external grants/fund raising/crowd funding etc.
- Opportunities for education and raising awareness about biodiversity.
- Partnerships with schools, businesses, and other organisations.
- Risk assessment and health and safety for volunteers and the public.
- Communication strategies to keep the community informed and involved.



TCV THE CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS.

TCV are a charity that undertake a range of activities in both urban and rural areas, from planting trees and wildflower meadows, maintaining footpaths, restoring ponds or creating new community food growing projects. Bringing communities together with a focus on helping nature.

By getting involved you can learn new skills, meet new people and make a difference to your local area!

Community Power. Working together for Nature.



Why community connection is important

Community connection is crucial to helping nature.

- **Collective Impact:** Environmental challenges such as pollution, habitat loss, and climate change are too big for one person to solve. When communities work together through conservation projects, clean-ups, or advocacy, we can make a much bigger difference.
- **Shared Responsibility:** When people feel connected to their community and nature spaces there is a group stewardship, and this helps keep natural spaces healthy.
- **Education and Awareness.** Communities spread knowledge. Local groups can teach people about native species, sustainable practices, reducing waste- empowering more individuals to act. TCV can provide training to help develop nature conservation knowledge.
- **Stronger voices.** A connected group can make changes that individuals alone cannot.
- **Emotional Connection.** Working together in nature builds empathy for the environment and each other.
- **Community connection transforms environmental care from a personal effort into a collective movement- turning concern into real lasting change.**

Together for nature

We are all here today because we care about nature and wildlife.

Scientific studies for the international Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red list of threatened species found that at least 172 bee species out of 1928 were at risk of extinction in Europe. The number of butterflies threatened with extinction in Europe has increased from 37 to 65 since the last study conducted 14 years ago. This recent publication of the bee and butterfly assessments comes after the first Europe-wide assessment of Hoverflies, another crucial pollinator group. Published in 2022, it revealed that 37% of all hoverfly species in Europe were threatened with extinction.

- "The biggest habitat for all these pollinators is flower-rich grassland and that is disappearing very fast across Europe." said Martin Warren, one of the lead coordinators of the butterflies assessment. "The positive thing is that so many people care now and there's a lot more awareness."
- Pollinators do so much for our food systems, they are facing a lot of challenges: destruction or damage of habitat, caused by agricultural intensification and land abandonment, draining wetlands, overgrazing by livestock, and the use of fertilisers and pesticides. It's important we do all we can to help them.

What a local nature conservation group can do.



Manage local green spaces for wildflowers.
TCV can help with scything or brush-cutting skills
as well as wildflower ID, initial assistance in
surveying and meadow management education.



Planting Heritage Orchards



Gapping and planting mixed species hedges.



Pond restoration.



Boardwalks and pond dipping platforms.



To make your local areas more wildlife friendly, more climate resilient and to enhance biodiversity, TCV can offer the services of our Norwich Environmental Action Team:- supplying labour, tools, public liability insurance cover for your group, training in: Task Leadership, Habitat Management, site management plans, safety on tasks, as well as TCV community network services and support.

**Are there areas near you that can benefit from any of this work?
Would you or your group benefit from TCV resources, guidance, support with tasks, tools and training?**



Strategies and Biodiversity information

- ❑ **[Green Infrastructure Strategy - Greater Norwich Growth Board](#)** – The Green Infrastructure Strategy provides a flexible framework for guiding and prioritising the most suitable types, locations and scale of Green Infrastructure needed to support future growth, alongside health and wellbeing, biodiversity and climate resilience.
- ❑ **Local Nature Recovery Strategy** (this strategy goes live in November) [Norfolk and Suffolk Nature Recovery Partnership](#)
- ❑ **[Norfolk Local Habitat Map](#)** - This mapping tools, which is part of the LNRS, shows the location of Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity (APIB) and Areas that Could become of Particular Importance for Biodiversity (ACB) and therefore the potential locations to implement measure to deliver habitat and biodiversity improvements.
- ❑ **Norfolk Biodiversity Information Service-** [NBIS](#) this service provides lots of data on habitats and species.

Local Support and Advice

☐ <https://www.norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk/>

Norfolk Wildlife Trust provides expert ecological guidance and access to local conservation resources.

☐ <https://norwichfringeproject.wordpress.com/>

The Norwich Fringe Project offers hands-on support for managing local woodlands, meadows, and footpaths.

☐ [TCV in Norfolk & Suffolk | TCV](#)

TCV can support parishes by mobilising trained volunteers for habitat management and green space improvements

☐ [Norfolk Flora Group |](#)

This group can help with a variety of botanical surveys

Useful link – identifying utilities

☐ [LSBUD – Home](#)

LSBUD allows you to identify the location of utilities for free.

You will need to create a free account to access the maps.

Please note: the maps do not contain data from Anglian Water therefore you should contact AW directly for the location of water pipes.