

The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Fund for Nature



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE
& PETERBOROUGH**
COMBINED AUTHORITY

Matthew Bullock
Trustee, Natural Cambridgeshire and
Chair, Fund for Nature Committee

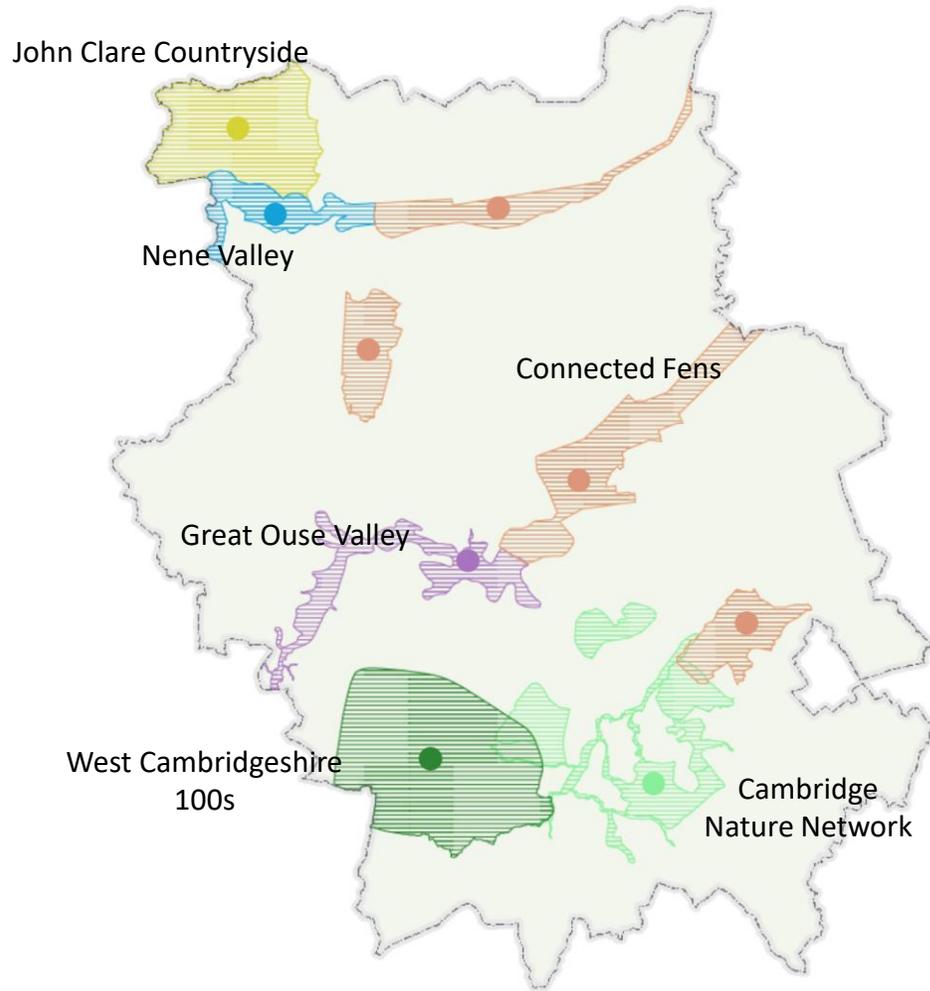


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Fund for Nature Criteria

- Revolving facility to support nature, water and climate change projects <£300,000; preference for priority landscapes
- Capital expenditure, not revenue/consultants
- Matching contributions 2:1
 - Grants, land, SFI, other investors, donations
- Financially self-sustaining once completed
- Repayments from capital receipts e.g. BNG credits or from income e.g. flood mitigation payments or visitor income
- Interest-free loan for <7 years; interest charged 8-10 years
- Senior debt ranking, unsecured, pari passu and negative pledge

Priority Landscape Areas



Six Priority Landscapes

- John Clare Countryside
- Nene Valley
- Connected Fens
- Great Ouse Valley
- West Cambridgeshire Hundreds
- Cambridge Nature Network

Any questions...?

fund@naturalcambridgeshire.org.uk

Martin Lines

Chair, Nature Friendly Farming Network and a Cambridgeshire farmer



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Wildlife Trust for
**Beds, Cambs
& Northants**

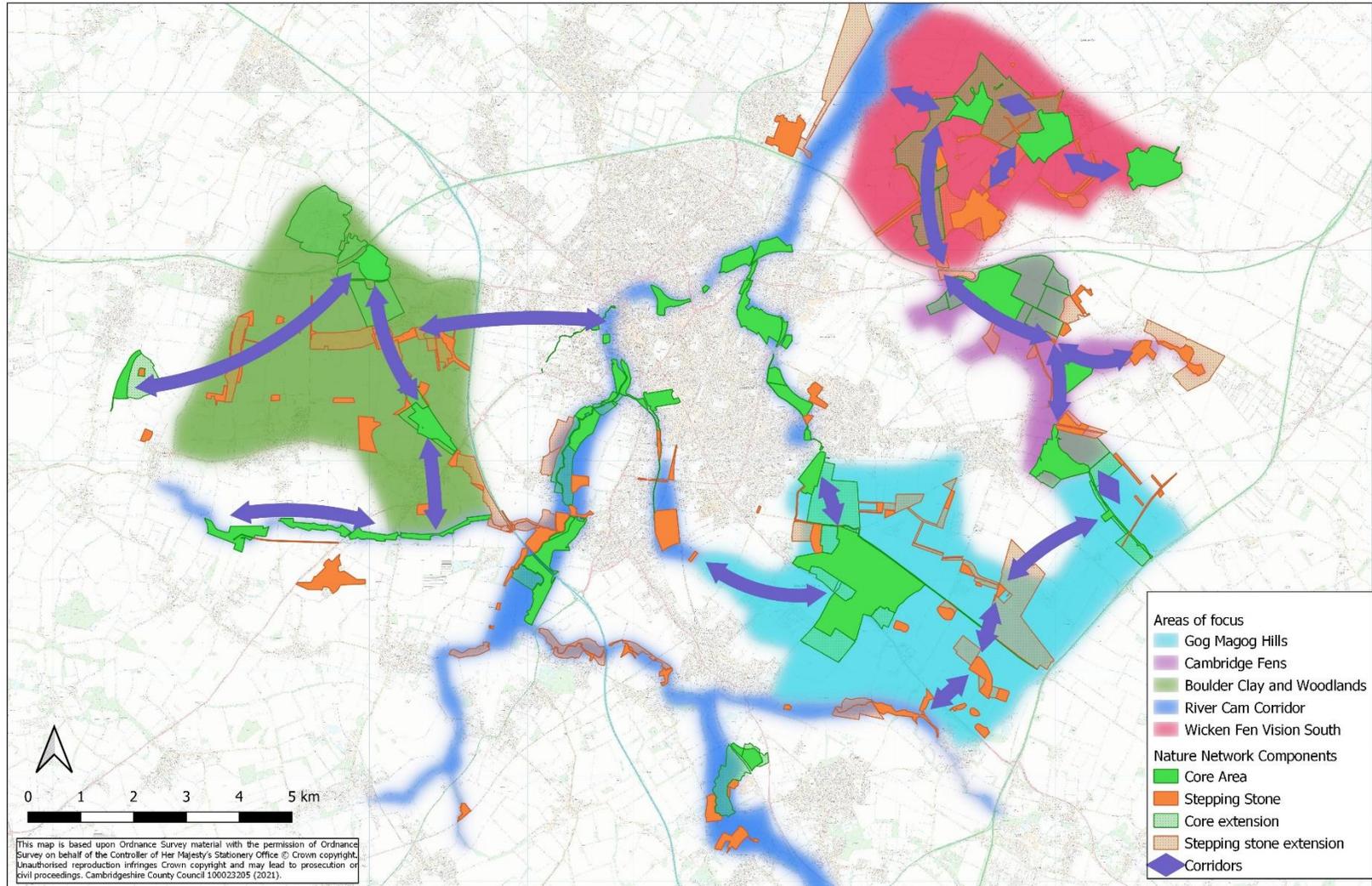


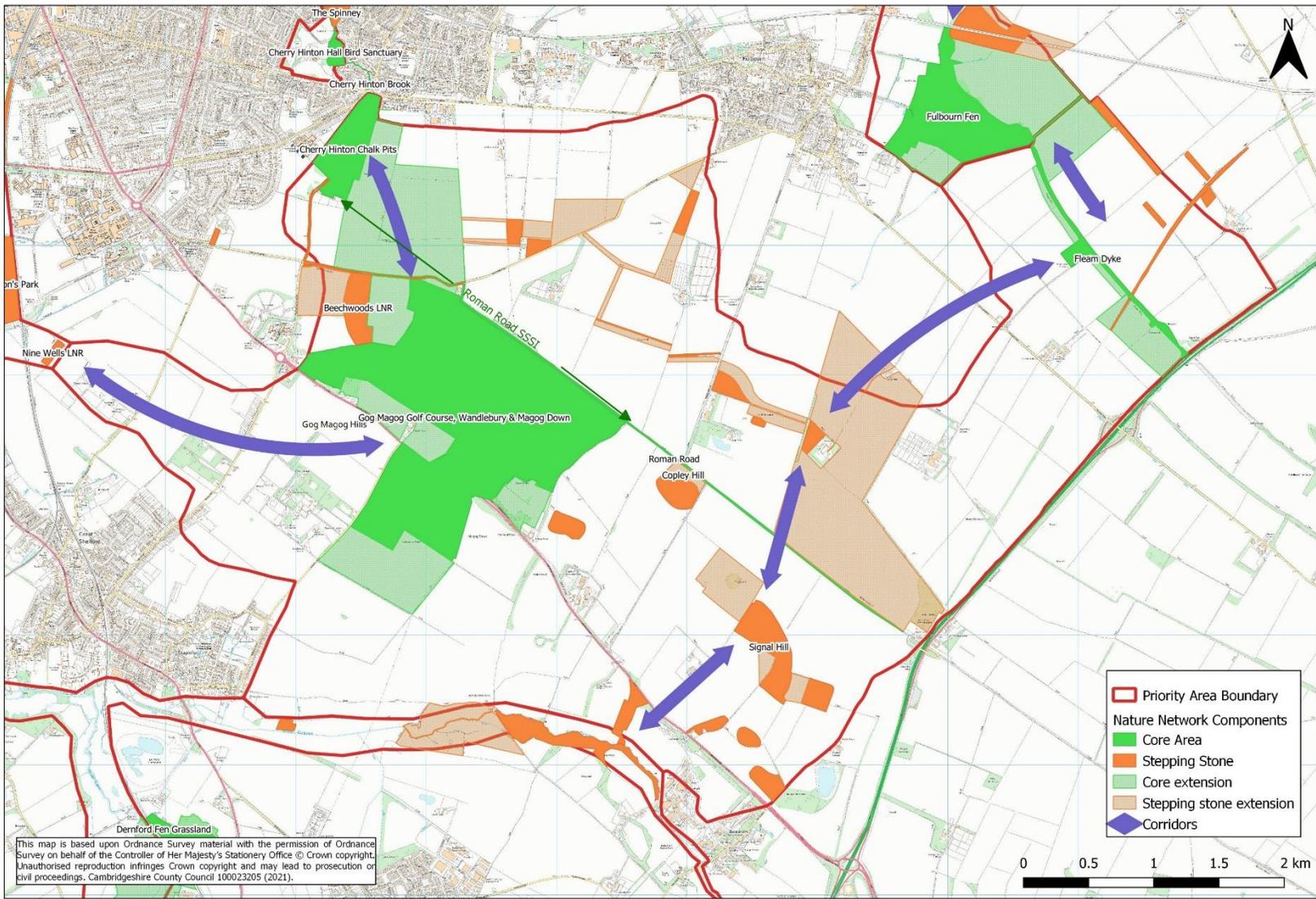
The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire,
Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire

People close to nature, in a land rich in wildlife

A photograph showing a narrow, overgrown path or track through a chalk grassland. The path is heavily encroached by dense green scrub and tall grasses, making it difficult to navigate. The surrounding landscape is a mix of green vegetation and patches of light-colored soil or chalk. In the background, there are rolling hills and a cloudy sky. The overall scene suggests a site that is narrow and difficult to manage due to scrub encroachment.

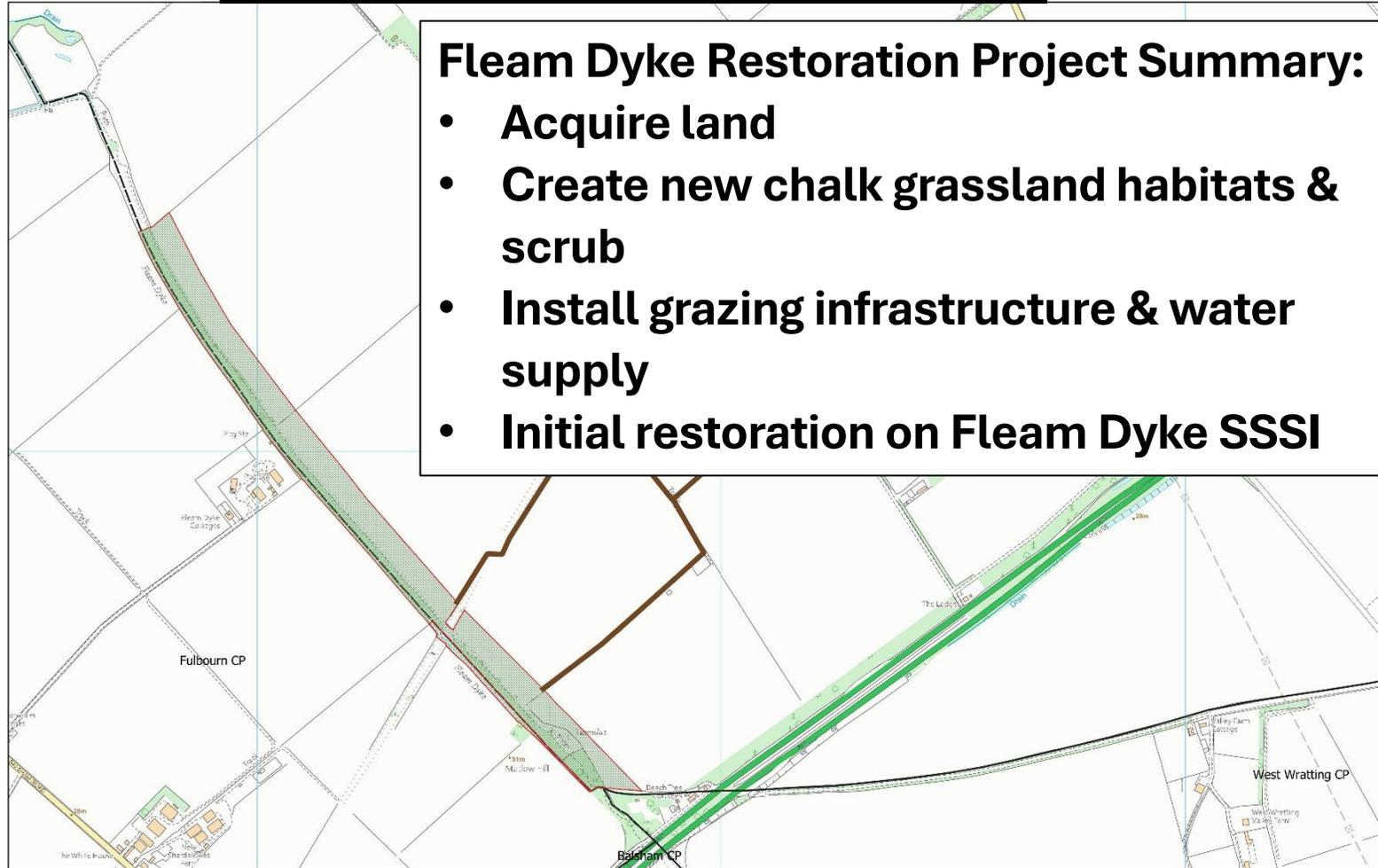
**Fleam Dyke SSSI (chalk grassland & associated species) & Scheduled Ancient Monument
Site narrow & difficult to manage (being taken over by scrub). SSSI in unfavourable condition**





Fleam Dyke Restoration Project Summary:

- Acquire land
- Create new chalk grassland habitats & scrub
- Install grazing infrastructure & water supply
- Initial restoration on Fleam Dyke SSSI



Scale: 1:7,500 @ A3

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Project Costs (first 3 years) £310k

Doubling Nature Fund provided £100k loan (interest free for an agreed period)

WT registered new habitats as a Habitat Bank & set up S106 agreement with SCDC

Loan to be repaid from future Biodiversity Unit sales



Securing Off Site Biodiversity Net Gain

Rowan Rumball MCIEEM
Senior Wildlife Officer
February 2025

PETERBOROUGH



CITY COUNCIL



Local Planning Authorities Responsibilities and Considerations

Planning Application

- Have they complied with the mitigation hierarchy?
- Have they completed the Biodiversity Metric properly?
- Have they delivered the project in line with the Local Nature Recovery Strategy?

Off Site Unit Provider

- Are they registered on the Biodiversity Gain Sites Register?
- Have they provided their Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan to the applicant and has it been vetted?
- Where are they on the BNG journey? Will the site realistically deliver?

LPA priorities

- Facilitate the provision of BNG within their patch.
- Enable developers to purchase units easily and locally.
- Provide a viable alternative to the Conservation Covenant system if providing monitoring capabilities.
- Encourage delivery of high quality green spaces that delivery biodiversity.



Unit types availability

BNG Pricing - England (South)



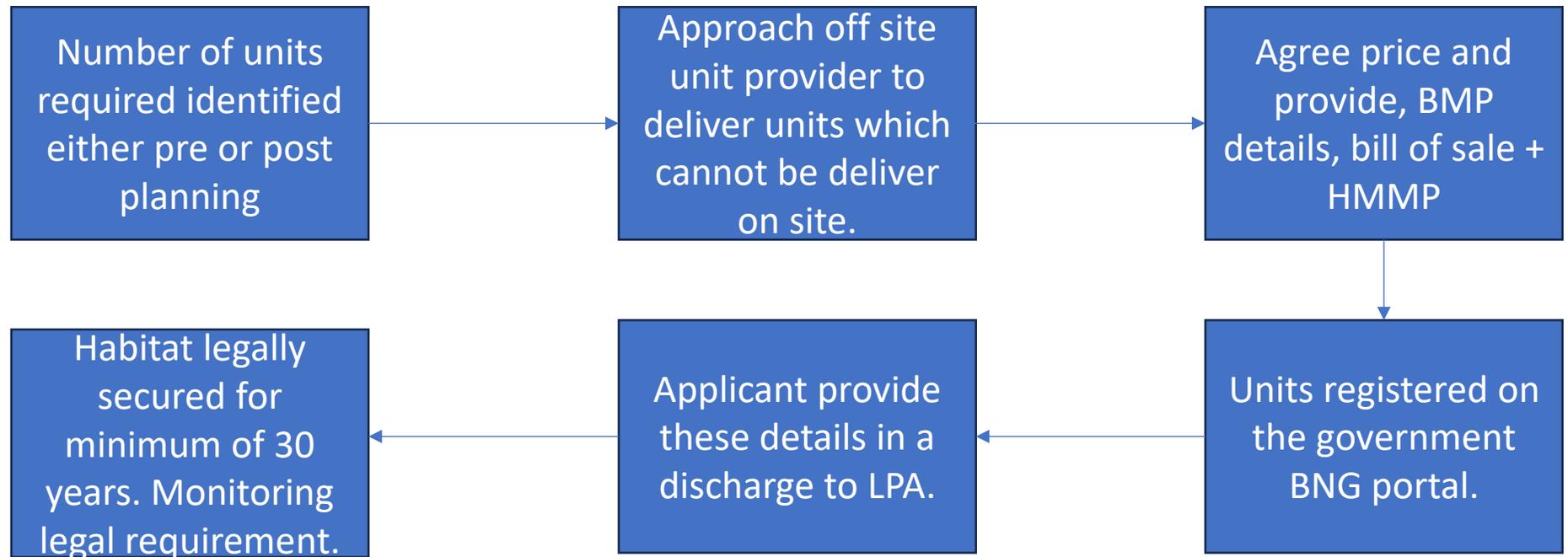
Habitat Type	Habitat Distinctiveness	In LPA / NCA Price	Supply Levels
Other Neutral Grassland	Medium	£27,200	Abundant
Woodland and forest	Medium	£32,800	Uncommon
Heathland & Scrub	Medium	£31,500	Abundant
Lakes / Ponds Non Priority Habitat	Medium	£65,625	Uncommon
Lowland Meadow	Very High	£41,375	Uncommon
Watercourses - All Watercourses	High	£164,575	Very Rare
Individual Trees'	Medium	£35,200	Uncommon
Woodland and forest	High	£49,300	Scarce
Traditional Orchard	High	£42,700	Scarce
Wet woodland	Medium	£40,825	Scarce
Mixed Deciduous Woodland	High	£57,125	Uncommon

<https://biodiversity-units.uk/bng-news/key-insights-from-biodiversity-units-uks-october-2024-pricing-report>



Unit sales and Planning

- Can be dealt with pre or post granting of application permission. However sale should only ever occur after granting of planning permission.





**ANY
QUESTIONS?**

LANDSCAPE VISION

Bigger, better, more and joined-up



What do farmers need to prepare for planning a nature project?



SWALLOWTAIL

CONTEXT



Why are you doing it?

- Finance
- Environment
- Business Resilience
- Succession + Legacy



Approach

- Going it alone
- Collaboration
- Scale
- Ambition & risk profile



Location, location, location

- Quality of land
- Project location
- Baseline & future potential
- Natural capital & ecosystem services



Support networks

- Business partners
- Family
- Neighbouring farmers
- Local authorities, eNGO's, Arms-length bodies



SWALLOWTAIL

CONSIDERATIONS



Financial & legal

- Opportunity costs
- Long-term agreements
- Gov Policy (and certainty)
- Tax



Stakeholders

- Other farmers
- NGO + Public sector
- Private sector
- Communities



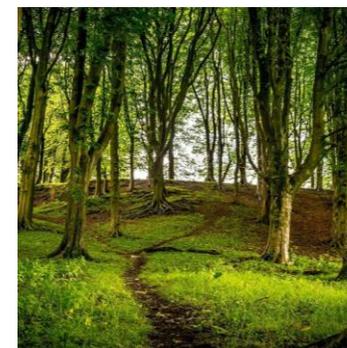
Project Offer

- Habitat distinctiveness
- Species recovery
- Strategic significance (LNRS)
- Wider society benefits

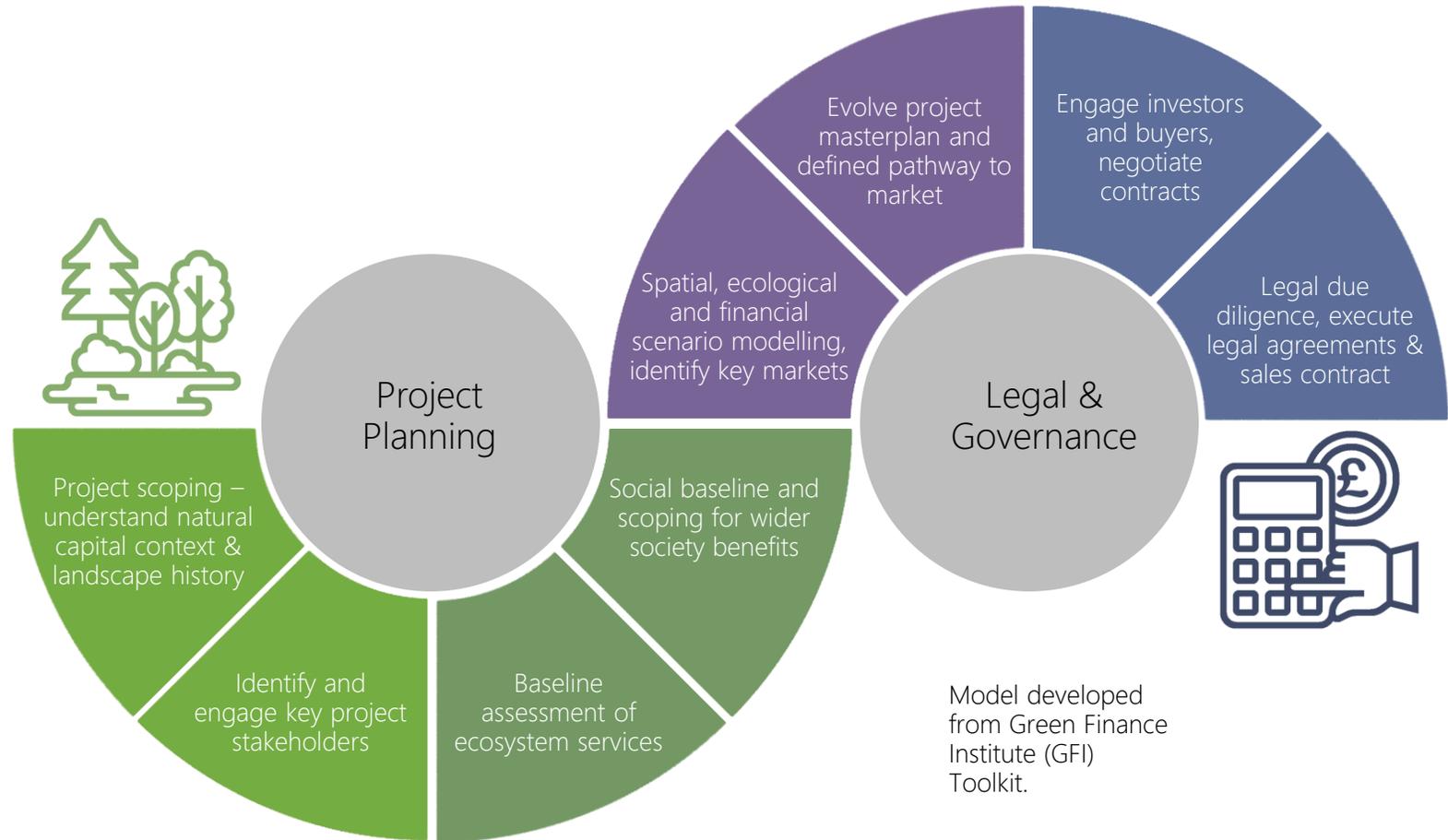


Nature Markets

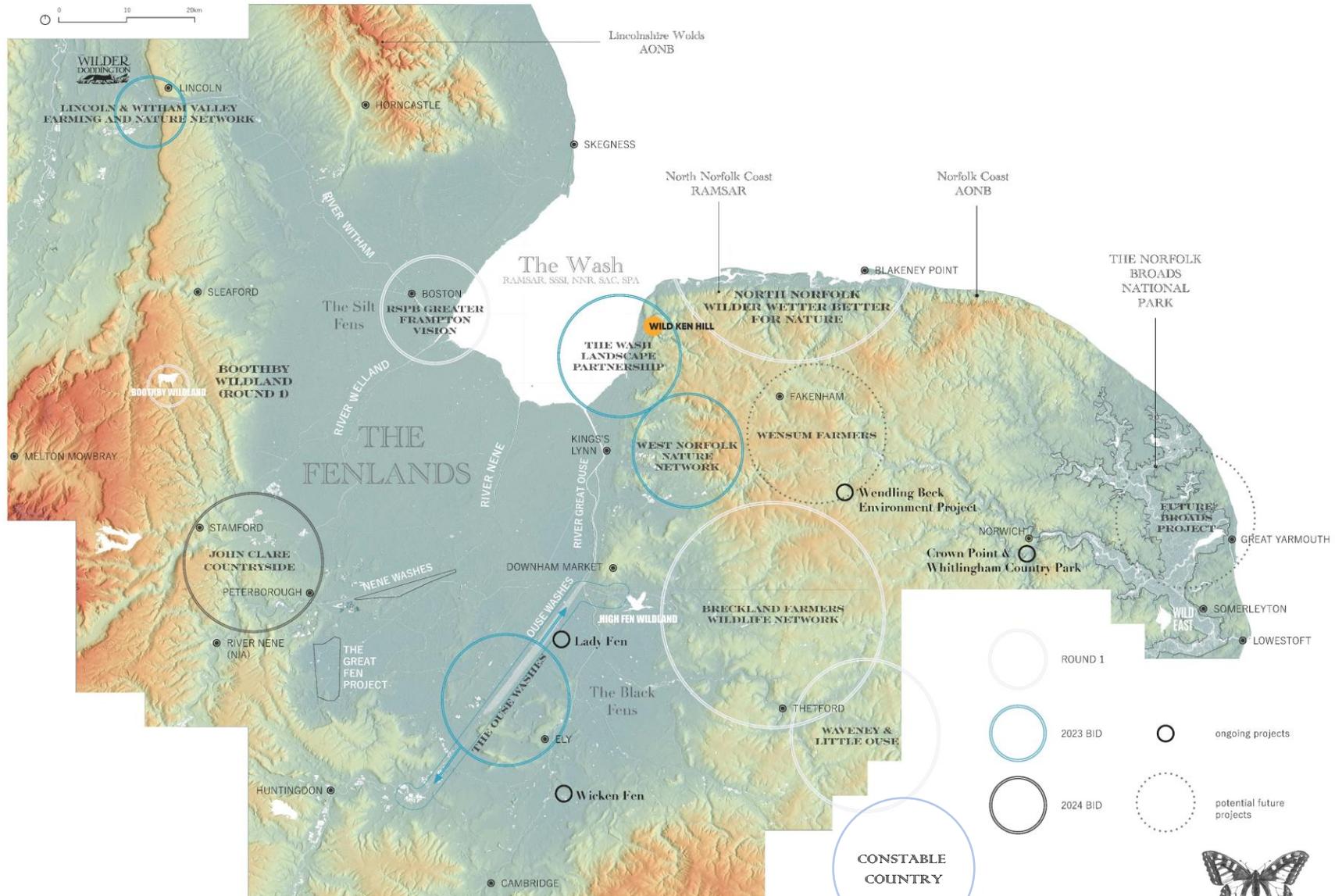
- Government schemes (ELM & Landscape Recovery)
- Compliance Markets (BNG etc)
- Supply Chain
- Investors (Carbon etc)



PROJECT APPROACH



ONE LANDSCAPE CONCEPT





WENDING BECK



*'It's your world now, Use well the time
Be part of something good, Leave something good behind'*

The Eagles — Long Road Out Of Eden

www.swallowtail.earth



SWALLOWTAIL

Rory Hodgson MRICS FAAV
Principal Land Manager – National Land Acquisition

11th February 2025



Environment Bank Overview

- Set up in **2006**
- Work with Landowners to create off site BNG Projects called **Habitat Banks**
- **29** Live Habitat Banks with capital works underway or completed
- **20+** sites in the legal process and many more in the pipeline
- Leading supplier of Biodiversity Units **4000+** available
- Team of **80+** ecologists, land managers, habitat delivery experts, sales people and more



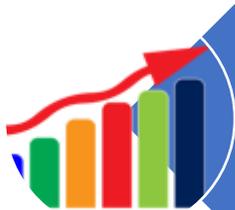
What is a Habitat Bank?



A **landscape scale habitat creation** project (of a sufficient size that can deliver the best outcomes for nature).



Fully **forward funded and secured** for its lifetime (30 years+) and not reliant on developer payments to be established.



A project that generates an **uplift in biodiversity value** as measured by the Biodiversity Metric.



The measured uplift can be translated into Biodiversity Units **that can be sold** to developers to meet their BNG planning requirements.



Unlike a Bespoke off-site BNG site, a Habitat Bank:

- Is **not linked to a single developer** or development.
- Establishes new habitats **in advance**, thereby 'banking' the biodiversity units so they are available for sale when needed by a developer.

What will a Habitat Bank look like?

- A range of habitat types can be included through **creation of new habitat** and **enhancement of existing habitat**.
- Typical habitat types could include **species-rich meadows, mixed scrub, broadleaved woodland and ponds**.
- The Habitat Bank design is developed in collaboration with the landowner and takes into account:
 - **The site environmental conditions**
 - **The wider landscape**
 - **Local biodiversity targets**
 - **Landowner aspirations**, management competency and practicalities
- All of our Habitat Banks designs are **bespoke** and lead by the ecological vision - designed using habitat and species surveys, hydrology data, soil data and local biodiversity priorities.



What is the Offer: Habitat Banks

- **33 year Lease Agreement**
- Unproductive, **low yielding** land
- **Landowner retains ownership and management** as the 'land manager'
- **Guaranteed flexible payments** forward funded for 33 years
- **Collaborative** approach to site design and management
- **Landowner removed from liability**
- All costs paid for by **Environment Bank**
- **Structured support through lifetime of agreement** with Environment Bank ecologists



Any questions?

Rory Hodgson MRICS FAAV
Principal Land Manager – National Land Acquisition

Helen Dye
Partnership Co-Ordinator
Natural Cambridgeshire



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C&P Fund for Nature Application Timelines

- 2nd Call for Large Projects opened **4 February 2025**.
- Expressions of Interest to be received no later than midnight on **24 March 2025** on the form provided, downloadable from:
<https://naturalcambridgeshire.org.uk/projects/cpfundfornature2guidance/>.
- Full applications from those chosen will be invited in **April 2025**, to be received by **18 June 2025**.
- Funding agreements will be issued to those selected by **30 September 2025**.
- Projects to begin work **no later than January 2026**.
- Potential applicants are strongly encouraged to contact Natural Cambridgeshire for an informal discussion prior to applying, which can be arranged by emailing fund@naturalcambridgeshire.org.uk.

Thank you

