

# Nature Recovery Declaration



This Council acknowledges that we are experiencing a nature crisis. Nature is in long-term decline: the abundance of terrestrial and freshwater species has declined significantly since 1970, with 2% extinct in Great Britain and a further 16% threatened with extinction<sup>1</sup>.

**We need urgent action to reverse Nature's decline.**

Nature provides us with many vital support systems and co-benefits, with the nature crisis and the climate emergency intrinsically linked. Many areas of our work have an impact on nature, and we have responsibilities to make decisions to protect and enhance it.

<sup>1</sup> State of Nature Report 2023

To address the nature crisis and aim to achieve the multiple environmental benefits that nature can bring to people, this Council acknowledges that the 'Bigger, Better, More and Joined-up' principles of the 2010 Lawton Report should be followed:

**a**

There must be more space given to wildlife;

**b**

Existing wild spaces must be expanded;

**c**

The quality of existing wild spaces must be improved;

**d**

The connectivity between wild spaces must be increased.





# This Council declares a Nature Emergency.

In order to support the recovery of nature across the High Peak, this Council will undertake to:

1. Work with the County Council to develop the County Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS), ensuring it underpins planning, development and land management decisions.
2. Develop an action plan to deliver the targets and recommendations in the Council's Plan for Nature, including managing at least 30% of land within the Borough for nature by 2030. The action plan will complement the County Council's LNRS and interim reports on progress will be published. Areas of focus will include (but not be limited to):
  - Support, educate and raise awareness amongst businesses, communities and the wider public to take action for nature, through council communications channels and involvement with community projects.
  - Review management practices for council green spaces to improve biodiversity. Realise the proposals within the Parks Strategy, including developing specific site management plans / action plans to improve local green spaces with nature in mind. Review management practices for council green spaces to improve biodiversity. Broaden our existing ban on glyphosate within our parks and open spaces to include any herbicide or pesticide<sup>2</sup>. Lobby the government to ban the use of peat in compost, whilst reviewing our bedding suppliers to steadily reduce the use of suppliers who use peat.
  - Taking measures to reduce the likelihood and severity of wildfires.
  - Update the existing Tree Strategy against Nature Recovery Network maps showing different habitats across High Peak with a "right tree, right place" approach.
  - Investigate opportunities for funding.
3. Embrace statutory Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) requirements and our statutory biodiversity duty in the planning framework, including:
  - Developing a local biodiversity policy and planning guidance.
  - Embedding biodiversity policy and plans within the revised Local Plan.
  - Prioritising habitat creation and improvement within the policy to guide developers and landowners delivering BNG and to influence the significance of the net gain, as measured by Defra's "biodiversity metric".
  - Work towards and review the feasibility of increasing the minimum 10% BNG requirement to align with our 30% target.
4. Review the Council's Climate Change Action Plan with regard to this declaration and promote nature-based solutions to reduce and adapt to the impacts of climate change wherever possible.
5. Form a biodiversity steering and monitoring mechanism to focus on achieving the targets and objectives outlined within the Plan for Nature and this declaration, and report back to the Council.
6. Consider all future council motions, policy and reports against nature recovery plans, and record any conflicts with, and contributions to, nature's recovery.
7. Appoint a member of the Executive as the designated lead for tackling the nature crisis.
8. Assign an officer as the designated lead for coordinating council operations in relation to nature's recovery.
9. Train elected members and employees about the nature crisis and their role in supporting nature's recovery.

<sup>2</sup> Allowing exceptions for invasive / notifiable species such as Japanese Knotweed where the Council has a duty to control the spread.

