

## A vision for nature in Cumbria: Bringing back our wildlife

(draft vision in the Cumbria LNRS pilot)

***“Cumbria’s wildlife in rural, urban and coastal places will be actively looked after and treasured. Healthy ecosystems on land and sea will support a sustainable local economy valued for its natural assets and contribute to the wellbeing of residents and visitors.”***

We will achieve this together by putting farmers, land managers, land owners and local communities centre-stage, and supporting the restoration of wildlife habitats at a landscape-scale and creating an environment which is in a better and healthier state than we inherited it.

We will create a Nature Recovery Network where wildlife can thrive in a mosaic of different habitats and where people can enjoy the landscape for its intrinsic beauty and through many more opportunities to connect with nature.

This connected and wildlife-rich landscape will help protect us from flood risk, absorb carbon and help mitigate against the effects of climate change, providing the people of Cumbria and beyond with plentiful clean water and air, and good food produced on farmland flourishing with wildlife.

As part of this vision we want to see:

- All of our habitats from coastal mudflat to hedges, from wetlands to montane grasslands and from scrub to urban sites being looked after for future generations
- An exemplar landscape that showcases the Lawton principles of ‘more, bigger, better and better connected’
- All of Cumbrian peatlands being in restorative and sensitive management
- Substantial new areas of broadleaved woodland regenerating and a landscape rich in trees and shrubs, from hedgerows to street trees and wood pasture, providing a rich and diverse habitat for wildlife
- The water quality of our lakes, tarns, ponds and rivers restored and freshwater wildlife flourishing
- Many more substantial stretches of our river systems returned to a more natural and dynamic state allowing them to ‘wiggle’ and reconnect with their floodplain wetlands
- A network of wild flower-rich meadows and grasslands providing food and nesting sites for our pollinating insects and birds
- Dynamic coastlines supporting a diverse mosaic of habitats and providing a variety of food, shelter and nesting areas for a range of specialist coastal species
- All of our wildlife, including our rare and threatened species, thriving and some that have been lost re-instated to our county
- Invasive non-native species stopped from establishing or spreading
- Large-scale ‘wilder’ areas where wildlife can live in more ‘natural’ conditions
- More accessible nature-rich areas in our towns, cities, villages and gardens