



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Securing Natural Assets for the future

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“I expect you’re keen to hear what effect it had on my health, this decision of mine to leave?”

Well, no sooner had I left behind the oppressive atmosphere of the city and that reek of smoking cookers which pour out, along with a cloud of ashes, all the poisonous fumes they’ve accumulated in their interiors whenever they’re started up, than I noticed the change in my condition at once.

You can imagine how much stronger I felt after reaching my vineyards! I fairly waded into my food – talk about animals just turned out on to spring grass! So by now I am quite my old self again.

That feeling of listlessness, being bodily ill at ease and mentally inefficient, didn’t last. I’m beginning to get down to some whole-hearted work”.

The journey here



- The National Ecosystem Assessment (2011)
- The Natural Environment White Paper (2011)
- The Natural Capital Committee's third State of Natural Capital report (2015)
- "...we pledge to be the first generation to leave the environment in a better state than we inherited it. That is why we shall produce a comprehensive **25 Year Environment Plan** that will chart how we will improve our environment" (2017)
- The 25 Year Environment Plan (2018)

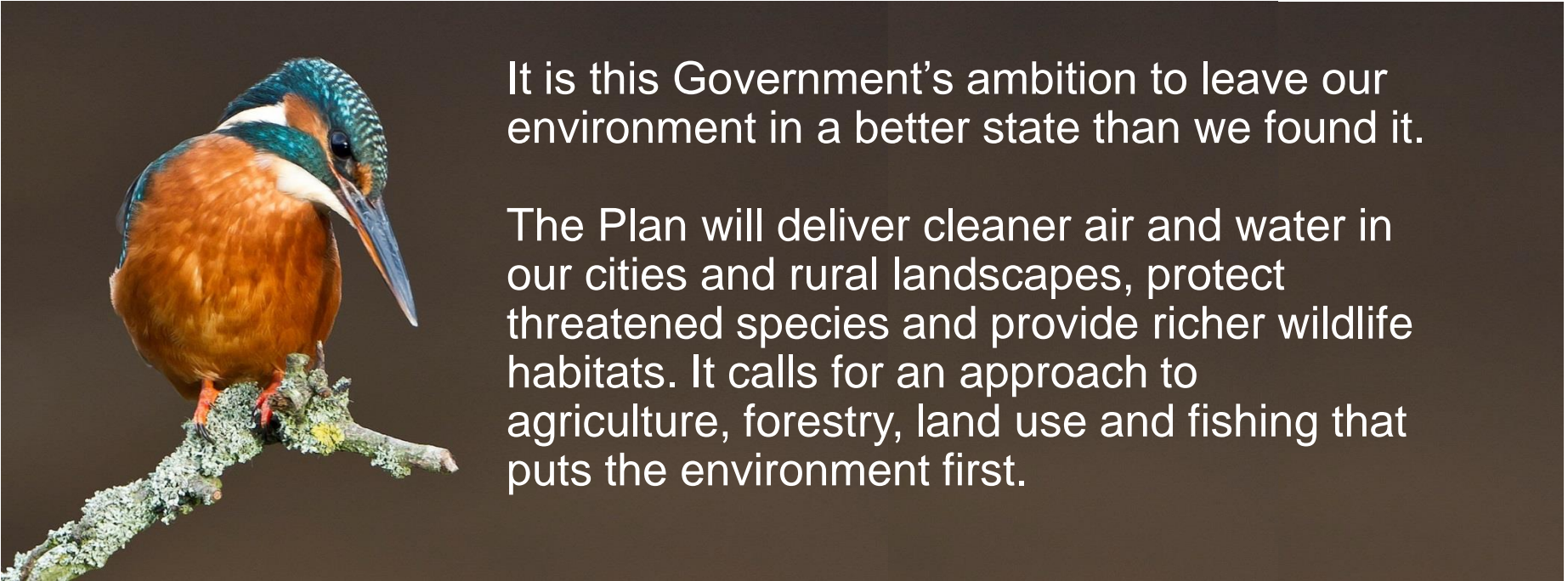
The Plan is launched



“The environment is something personal to each of us, but it is also something which collectively we hold in trust for the next generation. And we have a responsibility to protect and enhance it”

Theresa May, 11 January 2018

Our vision

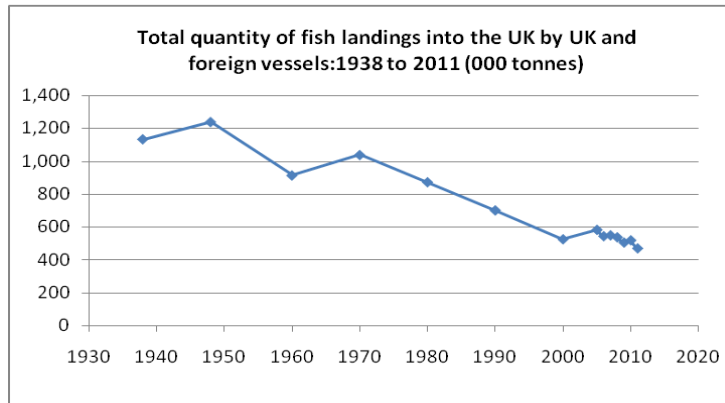
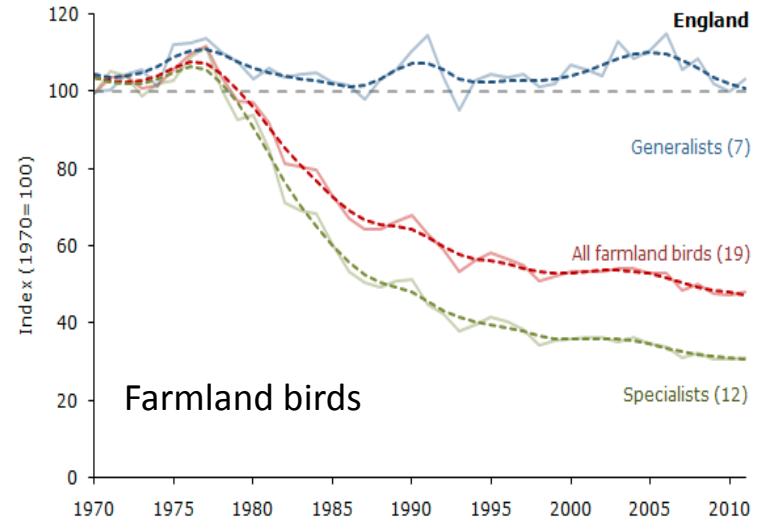


It is this Government's ambition to leave our environment in a better state than we found it.

The Plan will deliver cleaner air and water in our cities and rural landscapes, protect threatened species and provide richer wildlife habitats. It calls for an approach to agriculture, forestry, land use and fishing that puts the environment first.

What is happening to natural capital?

“Nearly two thirds of the services provided by nature to humankind were found to be in decline worldwide. In effect, the benefits reaped from our engineering of the planet have been achieved by running down natural capital assets”.
Millennium Assessment Board, 2005.



Pressures on natural capital are increasing

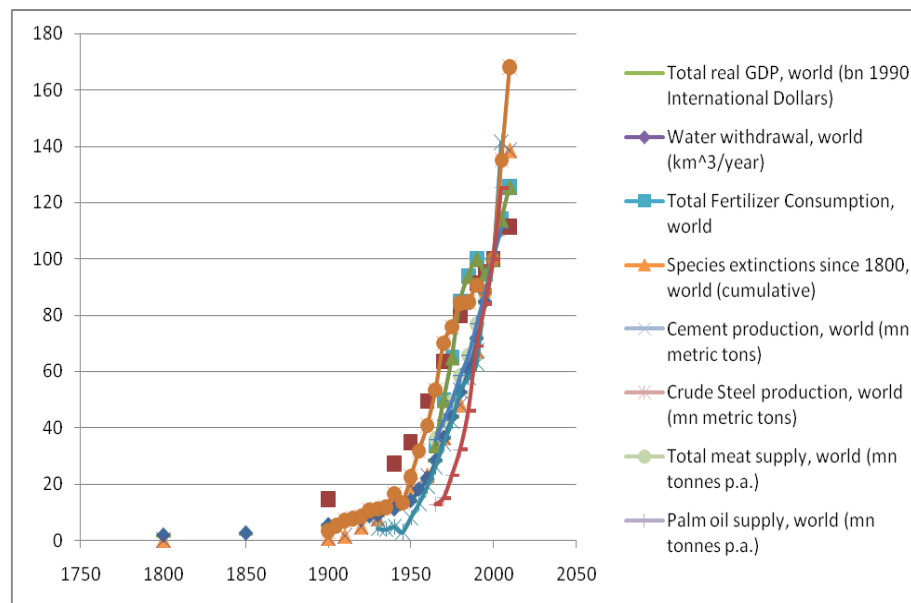
During the 20th century, humanity's interaction with and impact on global ecosystems was unprecedented:

“World population grew by a factor of 4 to more than 6 billion; industrial output increased by a multiple of 40 and the use of energy by 16; methane producing cattle populations grew in pace with the human population; fish catch increased by a multiple of 35; and carbon and sulphur dioxide emissions by a factor of 10”.

Dasgupta (2007).

These pressures are accelerating in the 21st Century.

The Great Acceleration



What distinguishes the recent past (from 1950 onwards) is an abrupt change in the pressures on the environment. Such is the nature and scale of change that the last 60 years have been labelled the 'Great Acceleration'

Natural Capital Committee

The Committee is an independent advisory body to Government, with expertise in the fields of economics, natural and social sciences, accounting, statistics, data, technical and both local and national delivery.



Dieter Helm (Chair)



Colin Mayer



Kathy Willis



Paul Leinster



Melanie Austen



Chris Collins



Ian Bateman

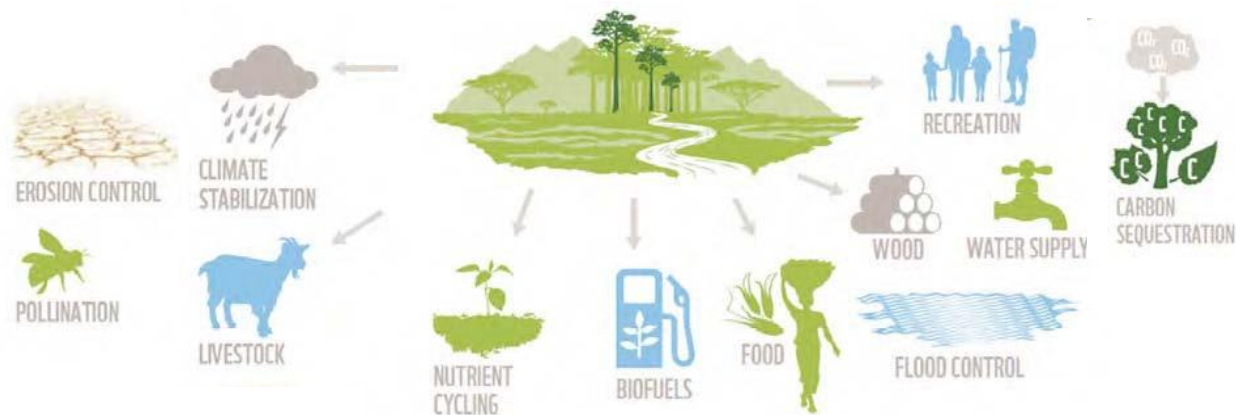


Diane Coyle

The Plan aims to embed natural capital thinking

A natural capital approach

Natural capital is a valuable tool that can be applied domestically and globally to understand, prioritise and ensure environmental outcomes are properly valued. This can help drive environmental stewardship beyond government, so that business and citizens play their part in making better decisions to improve the environment; thereby supporting wellbeing and a strong economy that works for everyone.



We can use this consistent approach to underpin the whole environmental policy framework, from data and tools through to regulation.

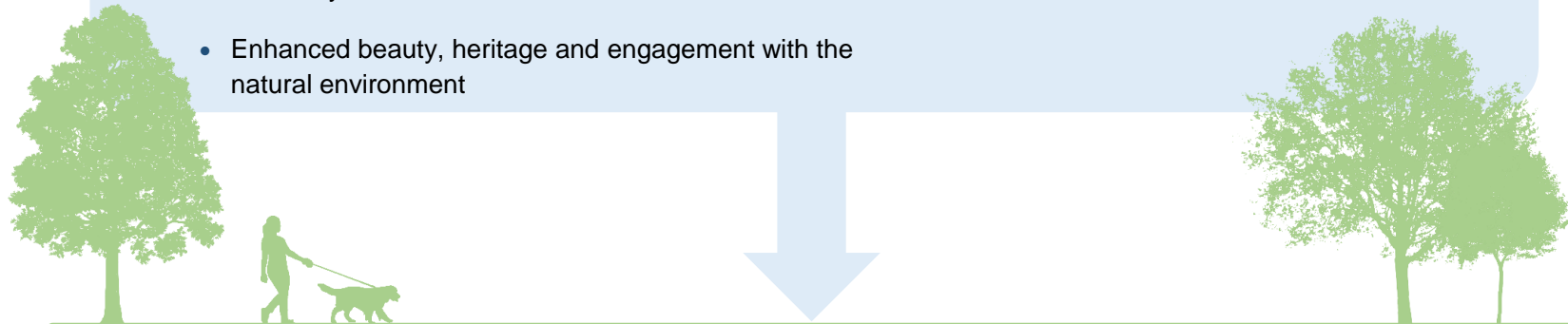
Our 25-year goals

We will achieve:

- Clean air
- Clean and plentiful water
- Thriving plants and wildlife
- Reduced risk of harm from environmental hazards such as flooding and drought
- Using resources from nature more sustainably and efficiently
- Enhanced beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment

We will manage pressures on the environment by:

- Mitigating and adapting to climate change
- Minimising waste
- Managing exposure to chemicals
- Enhancing biosecurity



Our policies will focus on:

- Using and managing land sustainably
- Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes
- Connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing
- Increasing resource efficiency, and reducing pollution and waste
- Securing clean, productive and biologically diverse seas and oceans
- Protecting and improving the global environment

The actions we will take

Chapter 1: Using and managing land sustainably	4. Focusing on woodland to maximise its many benefits	6. Improving biodiversity to protect and conserve nature	3. Greening our towns and cities
1. Embedding an "environmental net gain" principle for development, including housing and infrastructure	i. Supporting the development of a new Northern Forest	1. Reviewing National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty	i. Creating more green infrastructure
<p>Making sure that existing requirements for net gain for biodiversity in national planning policy are strengthened, including consulting on whether they should be mandated alongside any exemptions that may be necessary.</p>	<p>Working with landowners, farmers, key stakeholders and local people to identify and target areas most suitable for and likely to benefit most from woodland creation.</p>	<p>Developing plans to reduce the risk from all high priority pathways for invasive non-native species introduction into England.</p>	<p>Supporting the Parks Action Group in its work to help England's public parks and green spaces meet the needs of communities now and in the future.</p>
<p>Working with interested parties to reduce costs to developers by expanding the net gain approaches used for wildlife to also include wider natural capital benefits such as flood protection, recreation and improved water and air quality - streamlining environmental process, whilst achieving net environmental gains.</p>	<p>Supporting Community Forests so that they can play a leading role in urban tree planting, both as part of the Northern Forest and in wider partnerships to bring trees and green infrastructure to towns and cities across England.</p>	<p>Working with partners to raise awareness of invasive nonnative species and the need for strong biosecurity.</p>	<p>Continuing our ground-breaking work with Exeter University to update the world-leading Outdoor Recreation Valuation Tool (ORVAL) in 2018.</p>
<p>Working with interested parties to improve and expand the range of tools and guidance that support biodiversity net gain approaches, including through the future incorporation of natural capital measures.</p>	<p>Promoting the Northern Forest as a key contributor to the 'Northern Powerhouse' initiative.</p>	<p>Maintaining an alert system to detect high priority invasive nonnative species and implement contingency plans to rapidly eradicate them where feasible.</p>	<p>Establishing a cross-government project, led by Natural England, that reviews and updates existing standards for green infrastructure by summer 2019.</p>
<p>Working with MHCLG and development professionals to explore ways in which design can contribute to environmental improvements, leading to better places in which to live and work and a reduced environmental footprint.</p>	<p>Designing a new woodland creation grant scheme, involving landowners, farmers and key forestry stakeholders in the process. We want landowners to plant trees on their marginal land, while encouraging agroforestry.</p>	<p>Engaging with industry so we develop proposals to drive improvements in animal health. We will work with the devolved administrations and stakeholders to develop policies.</p>	<p>Supporting Local Authorities to assess green infrastructure provision against their new standards.</p>
<p>Producing stronger new standards for green infrastructure.</p>	<p>Exploring how this new grant scheme could specifically incentivise larger scale afforestation to meet carbon goals and wider environmental benefits at a landscape scale.</p>	<p>Engaging with industry to place biosecurity at the centre of buying practices - including encouraging the development of a biosecurity supply chain for woodland creation.</p>	<p>Working with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to see how our commitments on green infrastructure can be incorporated into national planning guidance and policy.</p>
<p>Exploring ways in which national spatial data and strategies could support and improve the benefits achieved through environmental net gain.</p>	<p>With BEIS and MHCLG, working with stakeholders and the Cumbria catchment pioneer, engaging with Local Enterprise Partnerships to identify suitable areas for large scale woodland creation, and promoting Forestry Investment Zones to attract community, commercial and landowner investors.</p>	<p>2. Conserving and enhancing natural beauty</p>	<p>ii. Planning more trees in and around our towns and cities</p>
<p>Expanding appropriate locations to pilot a revolving land bank for rural areas.</p>	<p>Working with our partners to develop new public/private partnership models of investment for research into the healthy environment, including for research on plant and tree health.</p>	<p>3. Respecting nature in how we use water</p>	<p>4. Making 2019 a Year of Action for the environment</p>
<p>Determining appropriate locations to pilot a revolving land bank for rural areas.</p>	<p>Working with the Tree Champion and the Forestry Commission to design and deliver a future grant scheme aimed at larger scale afforestation to meet carbon reduction goals and wider environmental benefits.</p>	<p>1. Reforming our approach to water abstraction</p>	<p>i. Helping children and young people from all backgrounds to engage with nature and improve the environment</p>
<p>Working with land managers and others to consider the role of a new environmental land management scheme that encourages broad participation and secures environmental improvements.</p>	<p>Asking the Tree Champion to draw on the Mackinnon review of forestry in Scotland.</p>	<p>2. Encouraging children to be close to nature, in and out of school</p>	<p>ii. Supporting the 2019 Year of Green Action</p>
<p>Retaining and further improving targeted support for more complex environmental improvements, backed up by specialist advice.</p>	<p>Learning from the £15m Natural Flood Management funding to develop our knowledge, identifying and promoting practical solutions for local implementation.</p>	<p>1. Helping primary schools create nature-friendly grounds</p>	<p>Working with partners from the business and voluntary sectors to make these activities happen.</p>
<p>Expanding new and innovative funding and delivery mechanisms as part of a new environmental land management system. These may include private payments for eco-system services, reverse auctions and conservation covenants.</p>	<p>Amending Planning Practice Guidance to clarify construction and ongoing maintenance arrangements for SuDS in new developments, tightening links with planning guidance for water quality and biodiversity.</p>	<p>2. Encouraging children to be close to nature, in and out of school</p>	<p>In partnership with Step Up to Serve, supporting the 2019 #will environment-themed year, with design input from young people.</p>
<p>Enforcing regulations for new farming rules for water from April 2018.</p>	<p>Considering changes to the National Planning Policy Framework and Building Regulations in the longer term to encourage SuDS</p>	<p>1. Helping primary schools create nature-friendly grounds</p>	<p>Evaluating progress in increasing young people's environmental social action, including #will campaign activity in 2019, and sharing lessons to sustain good practice.</p>
<p>Reviewing the progress of the new rules after three years.</p>	<p>Improving existing arrangements for managing surface water flooding, and the outcomes delivered by Lead Local Flood Authorities and other risk management authorities, including water companies</p>	<p>2. Encouraging children to be close to nature, in and out of school</p>	<p>At the same time, exploring with youth sector partners the potential for piloting a natural environment programme with youth groups that encourages use of natural environments through social action. This would aim to reach more young people from disadvantaged backgrounds.</p>
<p>Working with farmers to use fertilisers efficiently</p>	<p>Supporting an industry-owned voluntary code of practice to promote consumer and business confidence in measures to reduce the impact of flooding on buildings; and on those who live and work in</p>	<p>1. Supporting more small contact with local natural spaces</p>	<p>ii. Supporting the 2019 Year of Green Action</p>
<p>Putting in place a robust framework to limit inputs of nitrogen-rich fertilisers such as manures, slurries and chemicals to economically efficient levels, and make sure they are stored and applied safely.</p>	<p>2. Encouraging children to be close to nature, in and out of school</p>	<p>1. Supporting more small contact with local natural spaces</p>	<p>Working with stakeholders to develop and implement a manual for local authorities and other urban tree-planting organizations to shape their procurement and maintenance practices for urban trees. Introduce new requirements to ensure councils properly consult if they are considering removing street trees.</p>
<p>Introducing a new farming rules for water</p>	<p>1. Supporting more small contact with local natural spaces</p>	<p>2. Encouraging children to be close to nature, in and out of school</p>	<p>1. Supporting more small contact with local natural spaces</p>

The 25 Year Environment Plan

Six key areas around which action will be focused

- Using and managing land sustainably (chapter 1).
- Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes (chapter 2).
- Connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing (chapter 3).
- Increasing resource efficiency, and reducing pollution and waste (chapter 4).
- Securing clean, productive and biologically diverse seas and oceans (chapter 5).
- Protecting and improving the global environment (chapter 6)

Using and managing land sustainably

- Embedding an **'environmental net gain'** principle for development, including housing and infrastructure
- Improving how we manage and incentivise land management including designing and delivering a **new environmental land management system**, introducing **new farming rules for water**, working with farmers to **use fertilisers efficiently** and protecting crops while **reducing the environmental impact of pesticides**
- Improving soil health by developing **better information on soil health**, restoring and protecting our peatlands by **restoring vulnerable peatlands** and **ending peat use in horticultural products by 2030**.
- Focusing on woodland to maximise its many benefits by supporting the development of a **new Northern Forest** and **larger scale woodland creation** and appointing a **national Tree Champion**
- Reducing risks from flooding and coastal erosion by expanding the use of **natural flood management solutions**, putting in place more **sustainable drainage systems** and making 'at-risk' properties **more resilient to flooding**



Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes



- Protecting and recovering nature by **publishing a strategy for nature**, developing a **Nature Recovery Network**, providing opportunities for the **reintroduction of native species**, exploring how to give individuals the chance to deliver **lasting conservation** and **improving biosecurity** to protect and conserve nature
- Conserving and enhancing natural beauty by **reviewing National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty**
- Respecting nature in how we use water by reforming our approach to water abstraction and increasing water supply and incentivising greater water efficiency and less personal use

Connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing

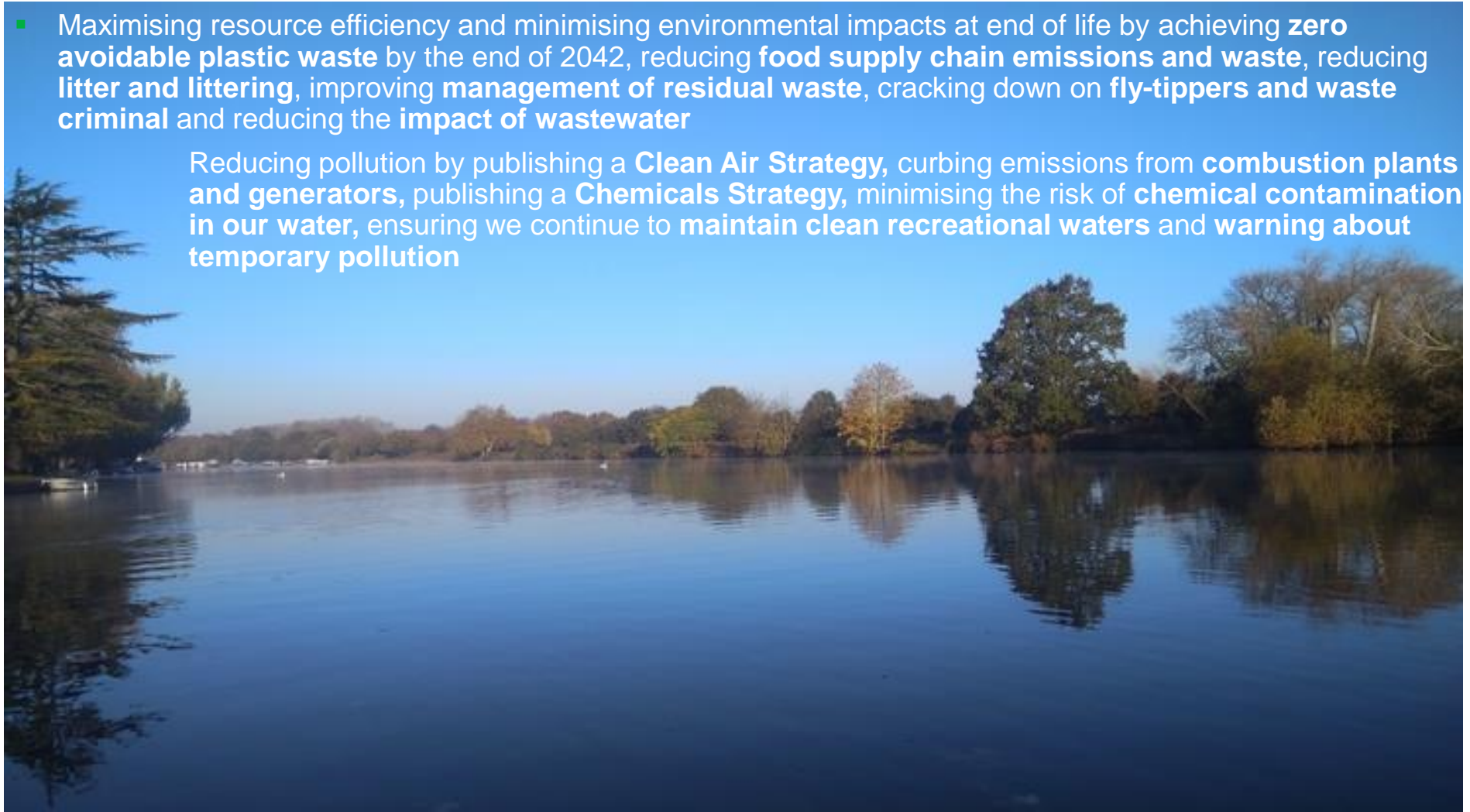
- Helping people improve their health and wellbeing using green spaces by considering how **environmental therapies** could be delivered through mental health services and **promoting health and wellbeing** through the natural environment
- Encouraging children to be close to nature, in and out of school by helping **primary schools create nature-friendly grounds** and supporting more **pupil contact with local natural spaces**
- Making 2019 a Year of Action for the environment by helping **children and young people from all backgrounds to engage with nature** and improve the environment and supporting the **2019 Year of Green Action**



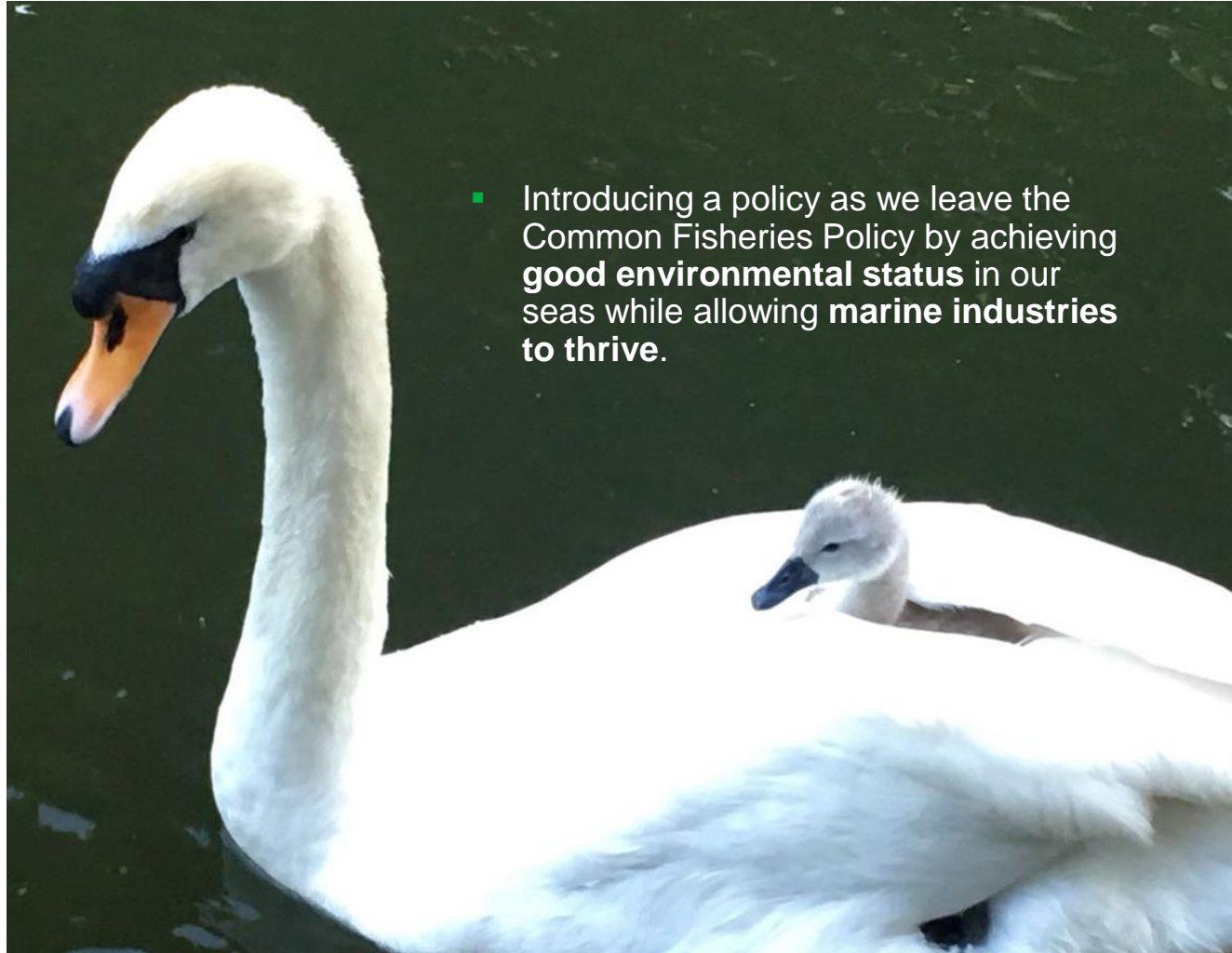
Increasing resource efficiency, and reducing pollution and waste

- Maximising resource efficiency and minimising environmental impacts at end of life by achieving **zero avoidable plastic waste** by the end of 2042, reducing **food supply chain emissions and waste**, reducing **litter and littering**, improving **management of residual waste**, cracking down on **fly-tippers and waste criminal** and reducing the **impact of wastewater**

Reducing pollution by publishing a **Clean Air Strategy**, curbing emissions from **combustion plants and generators**, publishing a **Chemicals Strategy**, minimising the risk of **chemical contamination in our water**, ensuring we continue to **maintain clean recreational waters** and **warning about temporary pollution**

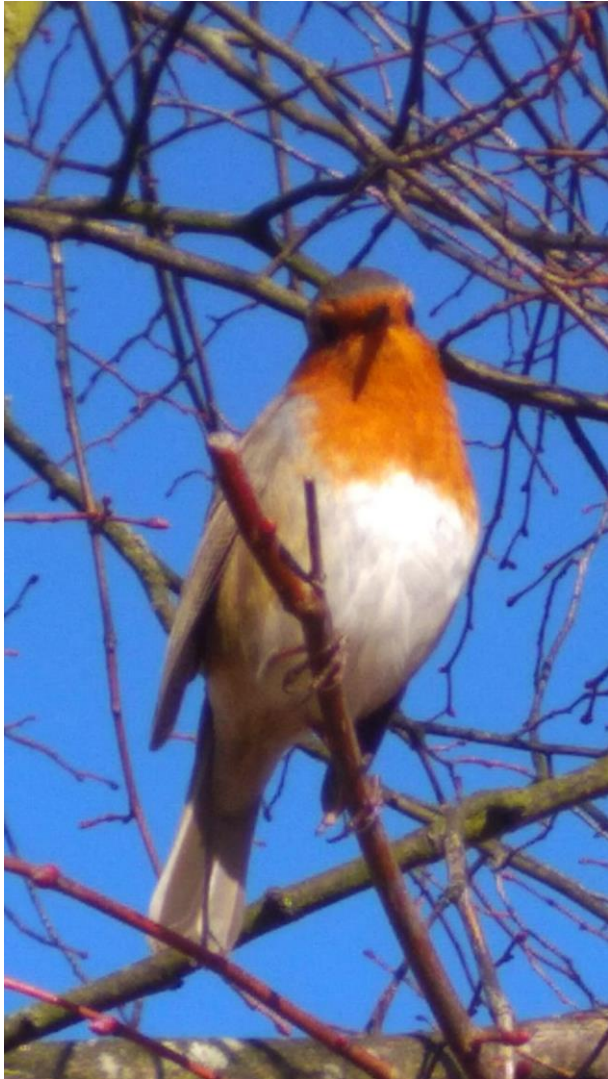


Securing clean, healthy, productive and biologically diverse seas and oceans

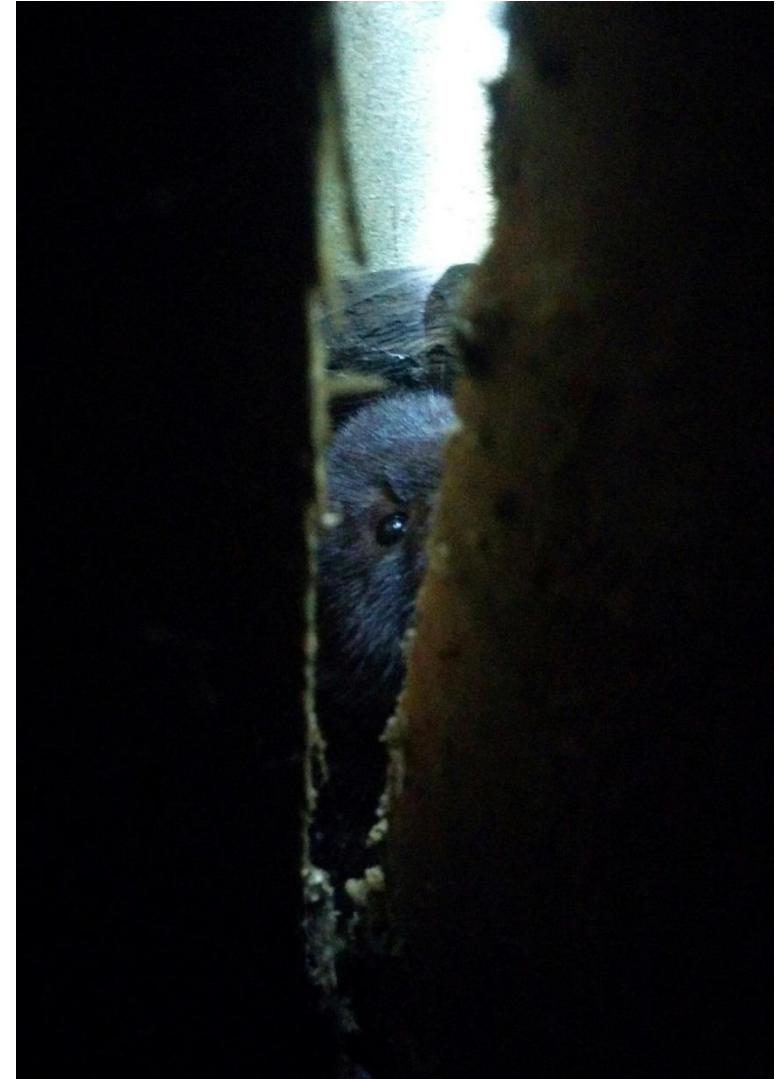


- Introducing a policy as we leave the Common Fisheries Policy by achieving **good environmental status** in our seas while allowing **marine industries to thrive**.

Protecting and improving our global environment



- Providing international leadership and leading by example by **tackling climate change** and **protecting and improving international biodiversity**
- Helping developing nations protect and improve the environment, providing assistance and **supporting disaster planning** and **protecting international forests** and **sustainable global agriculture**
- Leaving a lighter footprint on the global environment by **enhancing sustainability**, protecting and managing **risks from hazards** and supporting **zero-deforestation supply chains**



Putting the plan into practice

- Consulting on setting up a new independent body to hold government to account and a new set of environmental principles to underpin policy-making.
- Developing a set of metrics to assess progress towards our 25-year goals.
- Refreshing the 25 Year Environment Plan regularly to ensure that collectively we are focusing on the right priorities, using the latest evidence, and delivering better value for money.
- Strengthening leadership and delivery through better local planning, more effective partnerships and learning from our four pioneer projects.
- Establishing a new green business council and exploring the potential for a natural environment impact fund.
- Work closely with a large range of stakeholders over the coming year to identify their contribution to the goals set out in this Plan.



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