



# NENE PARK MASTER PLAN

# 2017 2050



Nene Park Trust  
PETERBOROUGH  
*for people, for nature, for ever*

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## Introduction

The Trust is fortunate in having a unique funding model operating independently as a **charitable trust** with endowments in the form of commercial assets and investments that fund the running of the park. However, these funds are not enough to support the ambitious projects that are needed to ensure that Nene Park continues to be such a wonderful community asset. The proposals in this Master Plan will only go forward when funding has been secured. We will need to be creative in finding new and innovative funding, support and delivery models. We will assess the viability of each project, see how one project can support another and use external sources of funding wherever possible.

To achieve the exciting ideas and aspirations of this Nene Park Master Plan we need your help. There will be exciting opportunities for individuals, voluntary, public and private organisations to work together to turn our proposals into reality on the ground. Partnership working will be key to success, and we will need lots of practical, moral, financial and political support.

We look forward to working with you to deliver the Nene Park Master Plan.



## Section 1 An introduction to the Nene Park Master Plan 2017 - 2050

This is the beginning of an exciting new era for Nene Park. As we at Nene Park Trust, the charity responsible for the long term custody and day-to-day management of the park, reflect upon almost three decades of successfully looking after such a wonderful place; we are delighted to share with you the product of many months of creative and innovative planning with our partners and with the communities in Peterborough and beyond. The result of all this collaborative development is an ambitious and exciting spatial and physical Park Master Plan which demonstrates clearly how, resources permitting, we are preparing to address a wide range of future challenges and opportunities in and for the Park. The Plan links inseparably to a new business strategy for the Trust.

Plentiful, good quality, accessible and connected parks and green space provide people in Peterborough a great opportunity to achieve healthy lifestyles, stronger communities, to celebrate culture, use green travel and to make Peterborough a more attractive place to live, work and visit.

Here at the Trust, we know people love parks because you have been telling us this for the last 30 years. We want to build on our past success by delivering much more for our communities across the City and region. We are proud to present these spatial ideas and aspirations in this, our Nene Park Master Plan to 2050.

We plan to improve existing parkland at Ferry Meadows, Thorpe Meadows and the wider estate. These improvements will enhance our capacity to receive increasing numbers of visitors and address increasing pressure on wildlife by shaping and managing the Park and by looking beyond our current Park boundaries to support the management of existing and new green space in the city and surrounding area.





The Plan also identifies how we will celebrate culture, arts and heritage through protecting, promoting and providing access to our rich archaeological and natural heritage and at the same time encourage new investment in 'art in the park' in all its many forms.

We see an enormous opportunity to improve the health of our community by working with new and existing partners to develop play, outdoor activities, sport and recreation in the Park. In the same way we will find opportunities to develop skills, outreach and learning, both through our own education programmes and those supported by partners - and through a much greater involvement by the community in projects and investing further in volunteering. To do all of this we recognise that we must improve facilities including our visitor centre, park buildings and our paths – our 'infrastructure'.

Implementing the Master Plan will involve a huge collective effort to secure support, influence, funding and other resources. It will involve volunteers, staff, trustees, supporters and partners from the community and from charitable, public and private sectors from Peterborough and beyond.

We are already prioritising our resources to start delivering the Master Plan. It is going to be hard work for us all, but we are certain that it will be worthwhile for people and for wildlife.

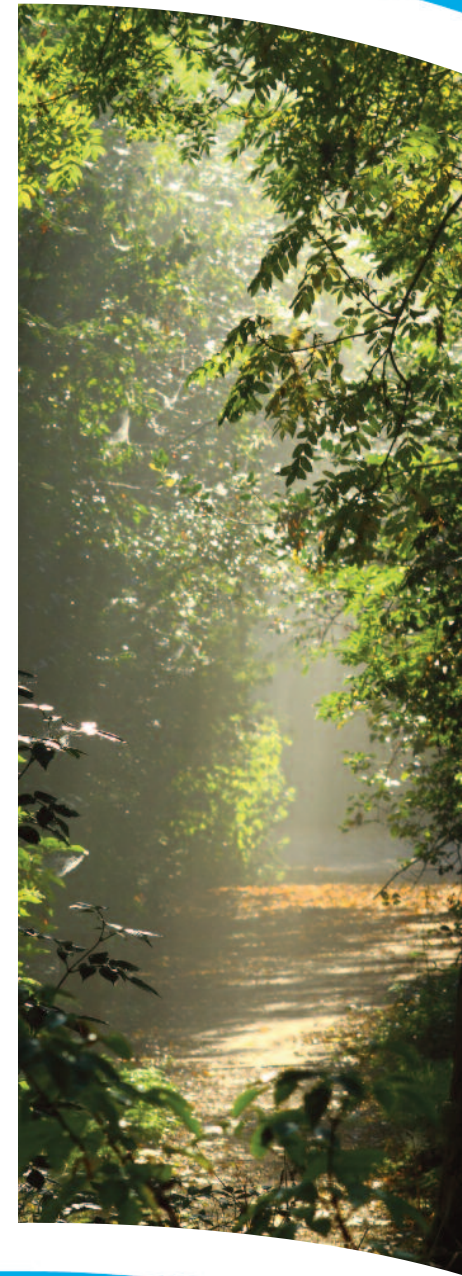
We hope you will help us to deliver this ambitious programme of projects - all of which will improve the lives of our community, our visitors, our local landscape and nature.



Jon Marsden  
Chairman



Matthew Bradbury  
Chief Executive



## A growing park for a growing city









Nene Park comprises a mix of parks including Ferry Meadows, Thorpe Meadows, together with wilder and more rural places such as Woodston Reach and Thorpe Wood. It also includes our lesser known 'rural or Roman' estate of agricultural land, extending west from Ferry Meadows to the A1 at Wansford. The network of paths provide green corridors to connect people and wildlife across the City and beyond.

The Park provides the backdrop for a huge array of activities enjoyed by our communities and visitors. These activities include education, outdoor activities, volunteering, wildlife watching and food growing.

Under long term leases granted by Nene Park Trust, Thorpe Wood and Orton Meadows Golf Courses add to the range of activities available within the Park. The Trust has also granted leases for Premier Inn and Holiday Inn hotels, Meadow Brown cafes, Notcutts, the Granary and Woodman pubs and Rutland Cycling. We are exploring new commercial relationships and opportunities among our proposals.

The Master Plan provides the spatial vision to create a larger Nene Park with even more on offer for people and wildlife in the future.

The Nene Park Master Plan will play a crucial role in:

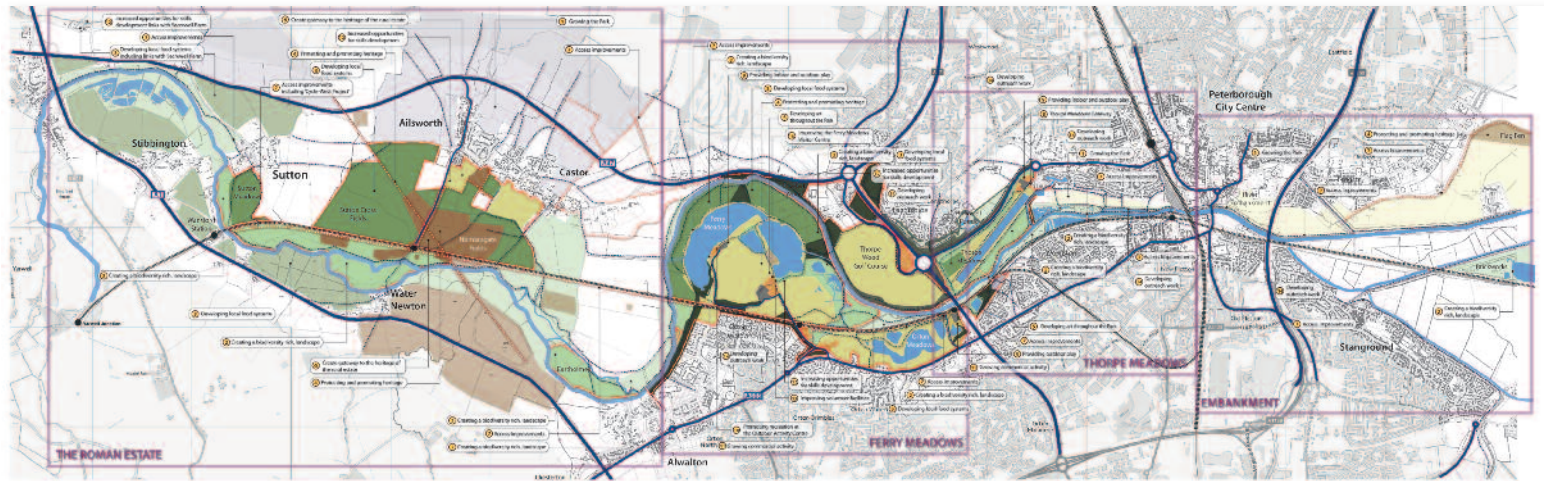
-  Encouraging healthy lifestyles
-  Strengthening communities
-  Improving our environment
-  Supporting culture and leisure
-  Developing education, skills and training
-  Protecting heritage and biodiversity
-  Planning and attracting future investment
-  Investing in Nene Park and green space across Peterborough

In developing our Master Plan we revisited our past to shape the future through 'Nene Park, The Untold Story'. This brought together people influential in the Park's creation and management. We shared their thoughts and inspiration with 65 organisations who helped develop ideas and shape the Master Plan.





Nene Park



## Section 2 Delivering benefits for people in Peterborough

Parks benefit people in many ways, reaching back into homes, schools and the workplace. Parks reduce the demands that people place on health services, help reduce pollution, protect urban areas from flooding and much more.

Urban parks were originally created in the 1830's to give workers a semi-rural retreat from noisy and busy factories and work places. Whilst many of those industries have gone, the need for a place for rest and relaxation has never been more important for so many.

**1,718,000 visits were made to Nene Park in 2015**

### **Improving health and wellbeing**

Nene Park provides a range of green spaces to help people get outdoors for energetic exercise or more relaxing pursuits. This helps our physical and mental health and wellbeing. Volunteering is offered at Nene Park and has been shown to help people feel happier and gain confidence and self esteem.

### **Strengthening communities**

Nene Park is available to everyone. Bringing people together from all ages and backgrounds helps build proud, tolerant, active and cohesive communities. We also border neighbourhoods and villages, providing them with a shared space near to their homes and a place to meet friends and relatives.

**Volunteers gave 4,500 hours of their time to Nene Park in 2015**

### **Moving access and travel**

Nene Park connects people and places through a range of routes that can be enjoyed free of busy roads. Encouraging access by foot and bicycle, or for the more intrepid horse riding and boating. This greener travel benefits individual health, improves community life and reduces congestion on roads.





### **Wilding and a healthy environment**

Our visitors and partners are excited to tell us about their wildlife encounters. As we create new wildlife habitats we are seeing an increase in biodiversity. We know increasing wildlife friendly management is important to both people and wildlife. Restoring water meadows or planting trees are examples which benefit people and wildlife, helping to mitigate climate change, manage flooding and supporting the healthy environment that provides us with clean air and water. We are monitoring plants, pollinators and the migration of birds to help us understand the effects of our land management.

After a 30 year absence Sand Martins  
nested in artificial nests

### **Enhancing Peterborough's image**

Nene Park has been described as 'the jewel in the crown of Peterborough'. The Park plays a crucial role in enhancing the positive image of Peterborough. Our park and path network are popular with visitors and commuters helping make Peterborough a great place to live, work and visit.



## Section 3 - Nene Park and the challenges for Peterborough

Nene Park is almost 40 years old and many of the Park structures and facilities (paths, bridges, fences etc.) are in need of repair, refurbishment, replacement or a rethink. These underlying spatial features require significant effort and investment to ensure that they are fit for the leisure needs of our communities today and in the future.

### Green space and waterways

Most of Nene Park is accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week and 365 days a year. We aim to ensure that it will remain that way. Recently we have begun to introduce more sustainable management; for example we have deliberately reduced the area of mown grassland and at the same time have increased wildflower meadows and livestock grazing. However, we still face major challenges including the wear and tear caused by high footfall on the grassland, the age of our woodlands which require major attention and the restoration and re-fencing of our water meadows for wildlife and livestock.

More widely we are seeing temperature increases and more severe weather events and we can only expect that the frequency of flooding will increase the pressure on the ability of Nene Park to provide flood alleviation for the City.

Nene Park is 1725 acres, or  
imagine 1500 football pitches

Nene Park's waterscapes play a crucial role in the visitor experience and include the River Nene, lakes, streams and ponds. These important features of the Park provide visual appeal, recreational uses and places for wildlife. The challenges we face include drier summers leading to lower water tables, more frequent extreme rainfall leading to greater erosion of soil and pollution of water bodies, demands for more navigation and recreational use, increasing temperatures leading to algal blooms and of course, the wider challenge of investing in our wildlife and landscapes.

13% of the area of Nene Park  
is water





### **Buildings and access routes**

Nene Park provides cafes, a visitor centre, recreation centres and toilets, all of which are important in enhancing the enjoyment of the Park. These facilities will, in most cases, require significant investment over the next 30 years.

**There are over 22km of paths to keep clear, repair and improve**

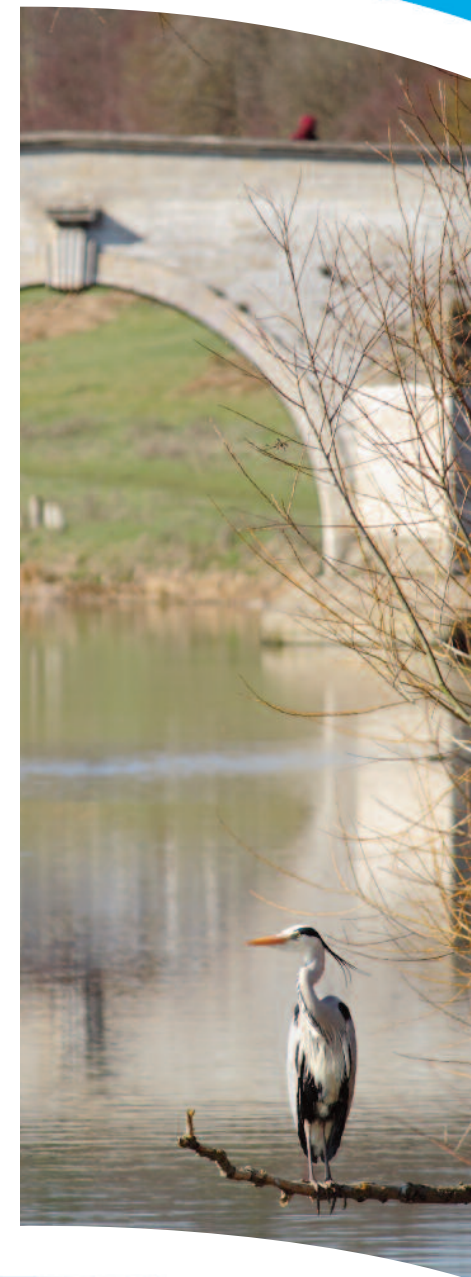
A good example of the benefits of such investment is at Lakeside, which was rebuilt in 2014. Lakeside now provides first class facilities for eating, meeting and outdoor activities; all whilst enjoying the beautiful views.

Our network of paths, bridges, roads and car parks will also require major investment. The mix of hard and soft surfaced routes used by visitors on foot, cycle and horse are essential for safe and easy access for recreation and commuting. Most hard-surfaced paths are now in need of widening, extending and resurfacing to safely accommodate cyclists, walkers and dogs and we know that a few of our bridges must be replaced soon. We will also improve access for people with limited mobility.

### **Built heritage**

Nene Park is home to a surprising amount of protected Roman and Anglo Saxon archaeology including buildings, bridges, pottery and human remains. The archaeology covers around a fifth of Nene Park and is mostly unseen underground. Our challenges include the development of much better public understanding and awareness of our heritage and at the same time carefully managing the increasing visitor pressure and occasional theft and damage.

**The area was very important in pre-historic, Roman and Saxon times with burials, farmsteads, Roman forts and Saxon fields**



### **Nene Park's role in the Peterborough of tomorrow**

As part of the development of this Master Plan and the development of our new Business Strategy, 2017 – 2027, we have considered in depth the role the Park can play in the Peterborough of tomorrow. The Business Strategy covers these challenges and opportunities in more detail. In summary they include:

#### **A growing population**

Peterborough, one of England's fastest growing cities, has a current population of 194,000 which is predicted to rise to 230,000 by 2031. Whilst the city has a higher than average number of young people, we also have increasingly more people aged over 65. We have a wonderful ethnically diverse population and a higher than average proportion of people who have a disability.

The challenge for Nene Park, and other green space in the city, is to ensure that good quality, vibrant, suitable and accessible parks are available now and in the future for all ages and backgrounds.

### **Housing and development**

Greater Peterborough expects to build thirty thousand new homes by 2036. Nene Park must therefore manage the inevitable growth in visitor numbers and at the same time explore opportunities to develop and manage new green space that will emerge as part of new developments.

### **Health and wellbeing**

Our Business Strategy focusses on the opportunity to increase the charitable benefits of the Park and its activities. This will mean a refocus on improving the lives of those visiting the park by providing opportunities to improve their health and wellbeing. Peterborough has well documented and serious health challenges and Nene Park can play a key role in ensuring that communities can be helped to achieve healthy lifestyles without physical, social, sensory and economic barriers to their participation.





### **Good parks for all**

Peterborough has a high proportion of residents living in social and economic deprivation. Nene Park, together with the other public open space providers in the city must ensure that the community has easy access to good quality, accessible green spaces to enjoy outdoor activities, spaces that at the same time contribute to sustainable 'place making'. Together with our partners, we will find ways to deliver 'park outreach' in the communities where people find it difficult to reach Nene Park.

### **Investing in parks and green space**

One of the big challenges for green space across the city is to improve connectivity for people and wildlife. We are also facing habitat and species loss due to development, a declining quality of green space, beyond Nene Park, and a need to improve resilience to the effects of climate change, for example, increased flooding, more pests and diseases and the spread of invasive plants.

Investment in parks and other green space by the local authority is likely to be severely limited at time of public spending austerity, both for capital improvements and on-going maintenance costs. Working with our partners, we have the opportunity to influence the creation of new green spaces in new developments and to work collaboratively by pooling limited resources to deliver priority projects. Together we can play a leading role in improving the quantity and quality of green space throughout Peterborough.



### Responding to changing leisure needs

Around half the population visit the outdoors at least once a week and urban green space is the most frequently visited outdoor destination. At Nene Park dog walking is the most common activity followed by wildlife watching. Many people use Nene Park for running and cycling and we also host water sports, and other outdoor activities including riding, archery, angling and orienteering.

The challenge for Nene Park is to meet the demands of changing leisure needs and to develop exciting projects that deliver appropriate, sustainable and necessary improvements.

### Skills in green space management

Peterborough's academic achievements are generally below the national and regional averages including a slightly lower percentage of its working age population with apprenticeships, but improvements are promising.

As we grow, we must support the development of our team including developing skills in park and estate management, horticulture and the skills needed to support our visitors and manage our organisation. We will work with local colleges and universities to develop more formal training, to include internships and apprenticeships in horticulture, estate management, visitor management and business management.

### Spatial issues for Peterborough

The Peterborough Local Plan has identified a range of spatial challenges. These include more sustainable ways of working:

- ~ Renewable energy use.
- ~ Managing intense rainfall.
- ~ Managing pressure on limited water resources.
- ~ Improving open space provision in some inner city wards.
- ~ Providing local food growing opportunities.
- ~ Reducing waste through recycling and composting.
- ~ Reducing travel by private car by improving walking and cycling networks and public transport.
- ~ Identifying suitable land to meet future employment needs.

The Park already contributes to these spatial priorities for Peterborough but we have plans to do more, much more!





## Section 4 Providing leadership and solutions

### The Untold Story - Revisiting the past to shape our future

In 2015 Heritage Lottery Fund supported our project - The Untold Story, capturing memories of key individuals who created and managed the park in the 1970's. This enabled Trust staff, trustees and volunteers to revisit the past to shape our future. Nene Park was established by Peterborough Development Corporation, at a time of housing growth when Peterborough was a 'New Town'. It was a useful reflection when we have been shaping this Master Plan, at a time of housing growth across the city and beyond.

In 1971, the Greater Peterborough Master Plan showed Nene Park stretching from the A1 in the west to the Embankment in the city centre.





This Master Plan re-visits the original vision to connect Nene Park with the city centre, growing the park for a growing city.

Almost forty years on, the role of parks and expectations have evolved to reflect the changing needs of the community. Our park now has a role in dealing with climate change, conservation and recreation as an important part of Peterborough's green infrastructure. The way that we spend our leisure time, and the demand for a greater range of activities, means that Nene Park now plays a wider role than initially envisaged.

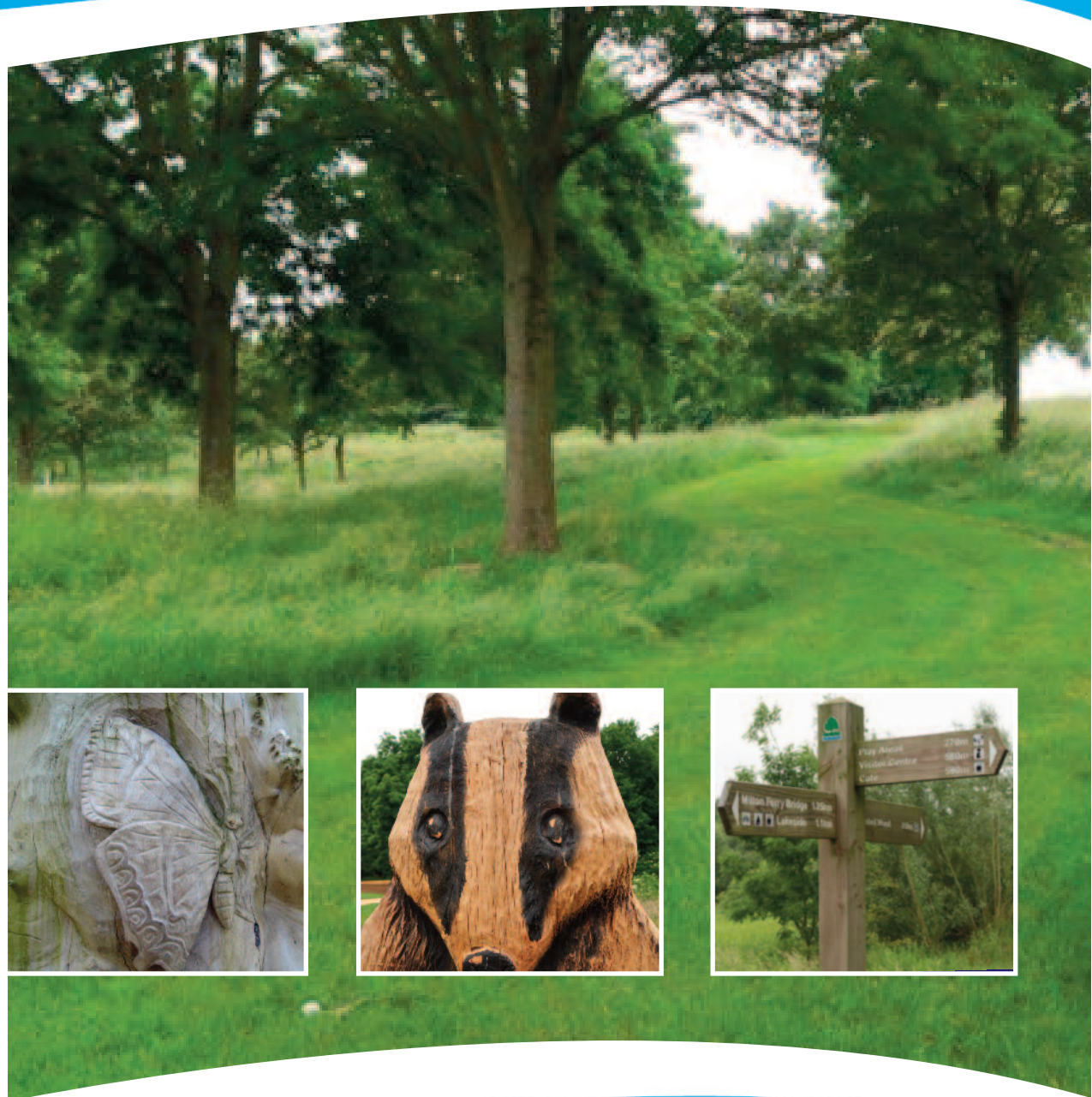
Picture right: Volunteers and staff watch Wyndham Thomas CBE, opening the Wildlife Garden. Wyndham was General Manager at the Peterborough Development Corporation in the 1970's, who with his team had the vision to create Nene Park and Nene Park Trust.





## Distinctive by design

Nene Park and other local parks and open spaces play a big role in how Peterborough looks and feels. The landscape, heritage, culture and designed features of Nene Park add to the character and identity of the region. In recent years the Trust has been working with partners and volunteers to give the park landscape a more natural appearance, improving places for wildlife, for people to enjoy. We recognise how important good design is to providing an attractive, appealing park. Our future projects will take design at their heart, improving quality, feel and a 'sense of place' as they develop.



### Guiding principles for managing Nene Park and beyond

The Trust has developed guiding principles to influence the future Nene Park. They will influence the detail of the park improvement proposals as these are developed and delivered as projects in the park.

- ~ Welcoming, safe and enjoyable experiences: We will provide visitors with a clean, safe and well maintained Park.
- ~ Well managed and sustainable: We will minimise environmental impact through improved waste, energy and water management.
- ~ Well-connected and accessible: We will provide green corridor routes between places, free of vehicles, for people and wildlife.
- ~ Culturally rich and creative experiences: We will work with communities to celebrate creativity and culture.
- ~ Prosperity, collaboration and opportunity: We will be outward facing by working in partnership, sharing opportunities and success.
- ~ Beautiful design and loved by its visitors: We will design the Park and new green space to meet the needs and aspirations of visitors.

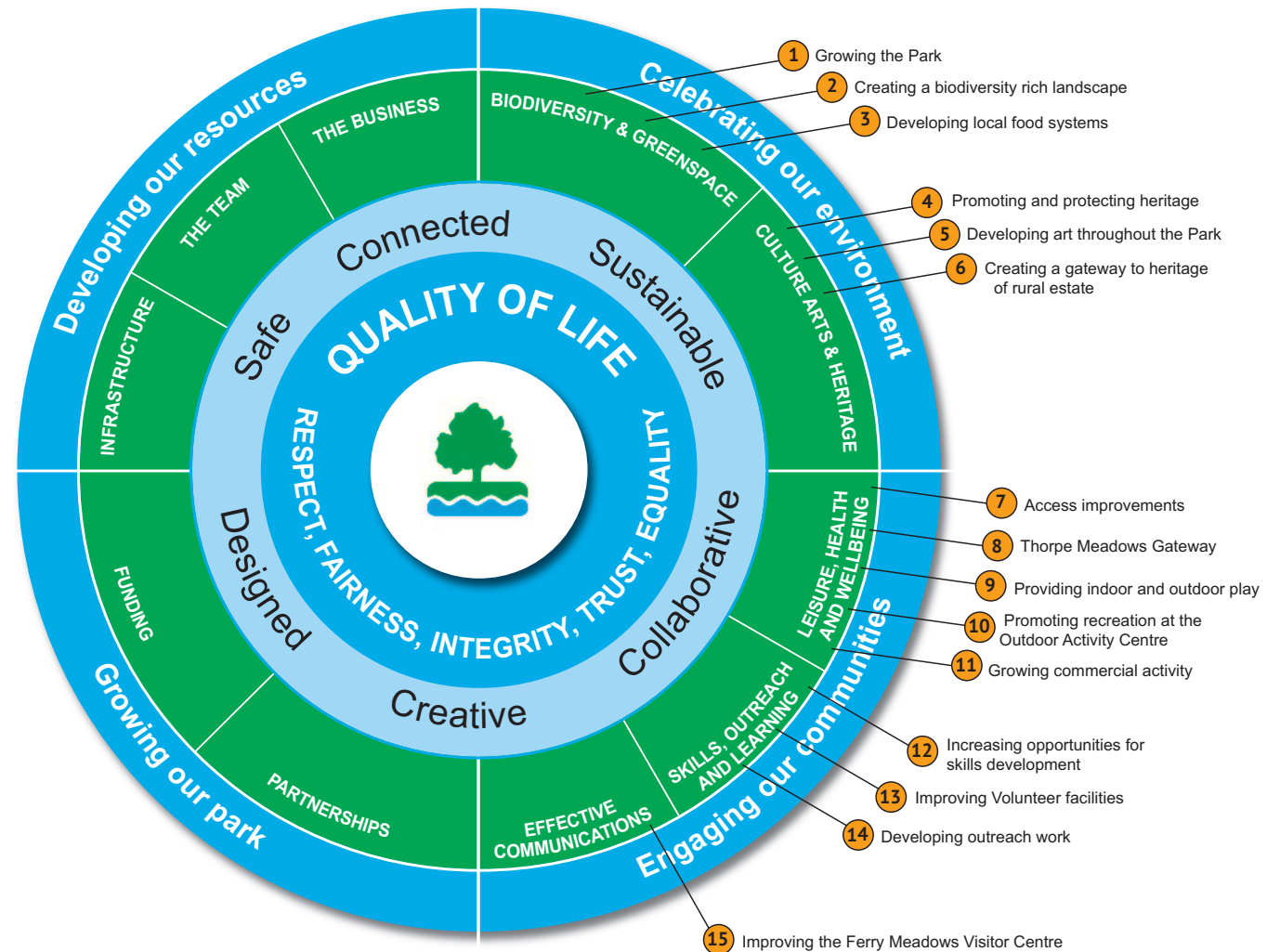




## Section 5 - Exciting ideas and proposals

Following extensive engagement with volunteers, partners, local organisations, community groups, statutory agencies, tenants, staff and Trustees fifteen park improvement proposals have been developed to contribute to the vision of Nene Park in 2050. These fifteen proposals are shown right - demonstrating their relationship to the Trust's business strategy model.

Each of these proposals will be made up of a number of supporting projects. Projects will be subject to business cases being prepared and agreed and the securing of funding before they can be progressed. The Trust also recognises that it will need to respond to opportunities that arise during the lifespan of the plan. To be effective in shaping the future of Nene Park the Master Plan will need to be a dynamic live document, which will be reviewed regularly by Trust staff and Trustees.



Master Plan Park Improvement Proposals

## Increasing biodiversity and greenspace

### 1 Growing the Park

Nene Park was originally expected to be part of a larger network of green spaces managed by Nene Park Trust. Current and future growth in population and housing raises this opportunity again along with the possibility of managing Council owned green space.

- ~ **Thorpe Lea Meadows:** By 2022 we will be caring for the Meadows with the help of local people on behalf of the City Council.
- ~ **City Greenway:** By 2022 we will be creating safe and attractive green routes from the City Embankment to Thorpe Meadows.
- ~ **Eastholmes River Route:** By 2022 people will have a route across private land to get between Lynch Bridge towards Castor Mill.
- ~ **Flag Fen Gateway:** By 2032 people will be enjoying more attractive, relaxing and safer routes from the Embankment to Flag Fen.
- ~ **Castor & Ailsworth Fields:** By 2032 we are helping to create public greenspace if new housing gets the go ahead.





## 2 Creating a biodiversity rich landscape

Nene Park was designed and is managed for people to relax and enjoy a natural landscape. This attracts wildlife that people enjoy. Rapid development across the City makes Nene Park a critical urban nature reserve.

- ~ **Moments with Trees:** By 2022 we will celebrate the trees of Nene Park with public events, activities and new fun and imaginative ideas with trees.
- ~ **Bringing Nature Closer:** By 2022 we will have created better areas for wildlife and for people to enjoy the flood plains at Ferry Meadows.
- ~ **Park Gateways:** By 2022 we will create entrances to the Park that are more welcoming, informative and attractive.
- ~ **Wildlife Windows:** By 2022 we will have new cameras showing wildlife on live feeds at the Visitor Centre and on the internet, for people to watch whenever and wherever.
- ~ **Memorial Arboretum:** By 2032 we will create a relaxing and reflective place for people to quietly remember lost loved ones.
- ~ **Wilding Thorpe Meadows:** By 2032 we will improve areas for wildlife and wildlife watching between the River Nene and the rowing lake.
- ~ **Wild Rivers:** Up to 2032, and beyond, we will improve our streams for wildlife and telling people more about the wildlife.
- ~ **Nene Wildwood:** By 2032 we will increase woodland throughout Nene Park, perhaps with local landowners through our fields towards Castor and Wansford.
- ~ **FloraFantastic:** Up to 2050 and beyond we will plant more seasonal and sensory spectacles of garden and wildflowers throughout Nene Park.



### 3 Developing local food systems

Less known by people are the fields beyond our main parks farmed for livestock and crop production. Cattle are new arrivals at Ferry Meadows to graze the water meadows to attract more wildlife for people to enjoy. We could tell people more about these food links and help people achieve healthier lifestyles.

~ **Nene Orchards:** By 2022 will plant new fruit trees to benefit wildlife and offer people blossom and 'food for free' from the hedgerows.

~ **Green Fingers:** Up to 2050 and beyond we will provide people chance to get hands on with growing food and plants and learn how to prepare the food at Nene Park and at the same time link food to the different cultures of Peterborough.





## Celebrating culture, arts and heritage

### 4 Protecting and promoting heritage

The Park and its surroundings have a fascinating history including nationally and regionally important natural and built heritage. There are many Scheduled Ancient Monuments and protected wildlife, which are threatened by development. They need sensitive management and greater public understanding

- ~ **Normangate Meadows:** By 2022 our arable fields will become grazed meadows with public access to protect important Roman heritage underfoot.
- ~ **Nene Heritage:** By 2022 we will write a fact packed history revealing more untold stories of the site before the creation of Nene Park.
- ~ **Unlocking Heritage:** By 2032 we will increase public access to heritage on neighbouring land.

### 5 Developing art throughout the Park

Art inspires, engages and involves people but there is potential to deliver much more. Nene Park hosts Peterborough Sculpture Park, which is managed by Vivacity. Sculptures are mainly at Thorpe Meadows and popular with people there, so more could be delivered throughout Nene Park.

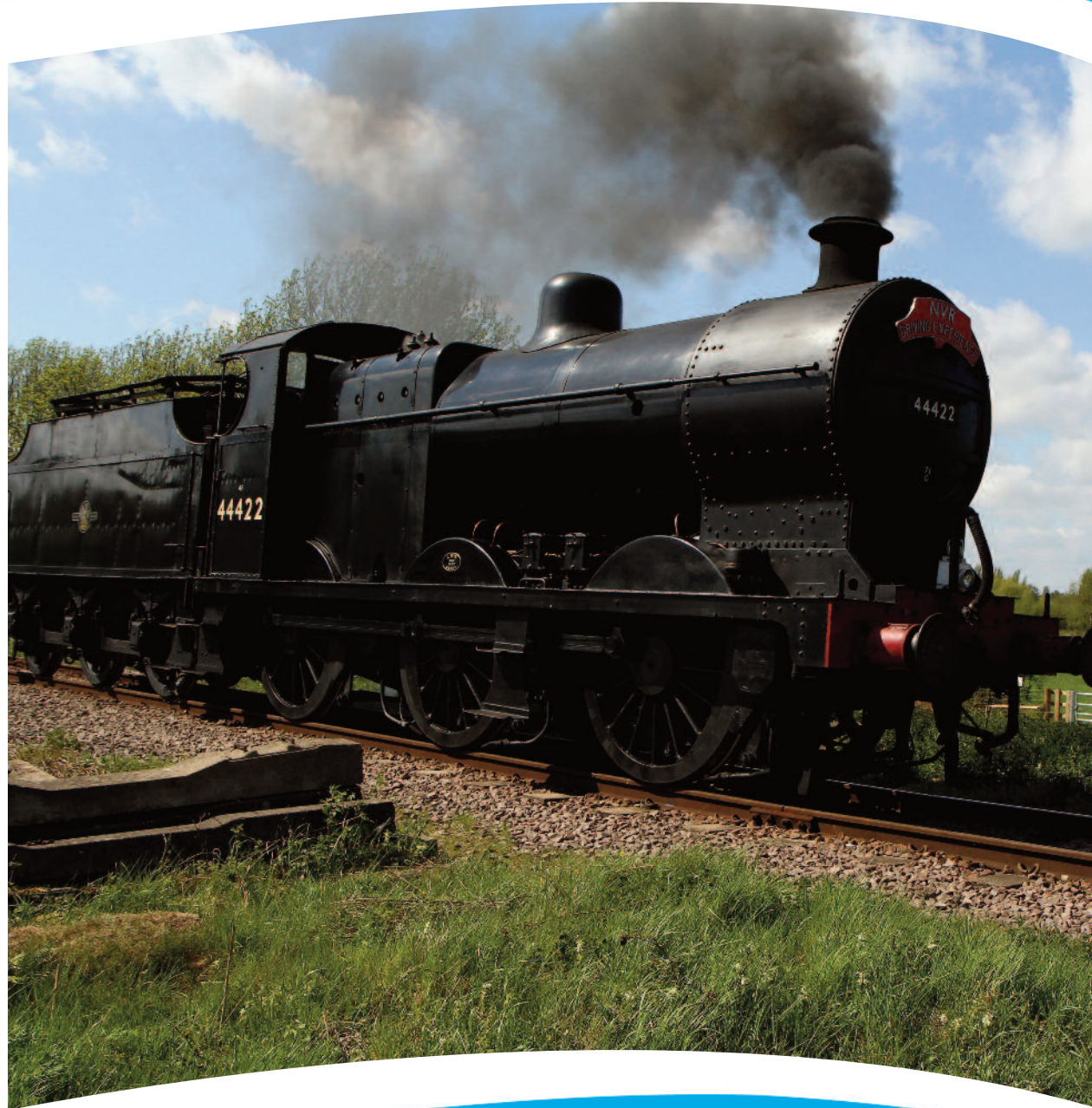
- ~ **Art links with City:** By 2032 we will complete improved links into the city centre by working with artists and local communities.
- ~ **Park Sculpture:** Up to 2050 and beyond we will install imaginative new sculptures to inspire and engage people.
- ~ **Art in the Park:** Up to 2050 and beyond we will work with people and groups to bring more inspiring and engaging art into the park.



## 6 Creating a gateway to the heritage of the rural estate

Our rural land away from our main Parks is under visited and greater investment is required to attract more use. It is under promoted, less accessible and less appealing. Nene Valley Railway is reopening Castor Halt at Station Lane and new housing may come to fields north of Castor. Together this suggests new visitor facilities are needed around Normangate.

- Community Garden: By 2022 we will restore the old station master's cottage garden at Station Lane, Ailsworth.
- Normangate Heritage Centre: By 2032 we will plan the first phase of a new centre for visitors to explore the western part of Nene Park.





## Improving health through recreation

### 7 Access Improvements

Growth in visitor numbers is putting a strain on a limited and ageing path network and the relaxed experience that the park was designed to offer. Increasing tensions are reported between a growing number of walkers, runners and cyclists because of conflicts between uses such as dog walking, recreation, commuting and relaxation.

- ~ **Pontoon Bridge:** By 2022 will improve the floating bridge taking people across the channel joining Gunwade and Overton Lakes.
- ~ **Bluebell Wood Boardwalk:** By 2022 people will enjoy a mud free route using a new boardwalk along the river at Bluebell Wood.
- ~ **Canoe Portage:** By 2022 canoeists will easily travel from the southwestern edge of Gunwade Lake to the River Nene at Landy Bridge.
- ~ **Stiles2Gates:** By 2022 we will replace fence stiles with gates and install signage throughout the park to improve navigation.

- ~ **Cycle West Sutton:** By 2032 cyclists will follow a route across our fields connecting the Green Wheel with Sutton and beyond.
- ~ **River Routes:** By 2032 more people will be exploring and navigating the waterways of Nene Park with improved moorings and facilities.
- ~ **WildViews:** Up to 2032 and beyond people will enjoy new rest stops with seating and covered areas to take in the views and rest their feet.
- ~ **Nene Ways:** Up to 2050 and beyond our routes to explore the park and beyond will be refreshed offering people new routes and new things to discover.
- ~ **Green travel:** Up to 2050 and beyond people will be provided with greener ways and choices to visit and navigate the park.



## 8 Thorpe Meadows Gateway

Quieter parts of Nene Park have so much more to offer people, (but still in many areas be quiet) but need imagination and investment. Thorpe Meadows is an important link between the city and Ferry Meadows. To sustain the original purpose of Nene Park to provide people with a relaxing and enjoyable experience we can encourage people to use Thorpe Meadows but this will require additional investment.

~ **Thorpe Meadows Gateway:** Up to 2032 and beyond we will provide new visitor facilities at Thorpe Meadows and better routes to and from the City.

## 9 Providing indoor and outdoor play

Play should be for people of all ages and abilities because it makes you happy and healthier. Young families are benefitting from recent large investment in outdoor play but to achieve a healthier population we need to inspire more young people outdoors, engage older people in play and attract people during the bad weather and colder months.

~ **Lakeside Fox Play:** By 2022 young people will enjoy new play facilities which are linked to Nene Outdoors Outdoor Activity Centre.

~ **Indoor Play:** By 2022 play will be fun every day with the Park's first indoor leisure experience.

~ **Thorpe Meadows Play:** By 2022 young people will enjoy the first formal play provision at Thorpe Meadows.

~ **Orton Play:** By 2032 young people will have the first play provision at Orton Mere.





## 10 Promoting recreation at Nene Outdoors Outdoor Activity Centre

Inspiring people outdoors requires a venue equipped and flexible to meet the needs and changing visitor expectations. The Lakeside Outdoor Activity Centre at Gunwade Lake is a major park asset and popular visitor destination for cafe users with water based activities and cycle hire. There is room for more activities and events and need for short stay accommodation.

- ~ **The Nene Outdoors Experience:** By 2022 we will have a plan showing improved and new experiences for people to make the most of their Lakeside visit.
- ~ **Lakeside Swim:** By 2022 visitors will enjoy safe and managed wild swimming in Gunwade Lake at the Lakeside.
- ~ **Lakeside Recreation:** Up to 2022 and beyond visitors will enjoy a range of new recreational activities such as low and high ropes and climbing walls.





## 11 Growing commercial activity

Some Park visitor facilities are run by tenant businesses including the cafe, cycle hire and miniature railway. Some of the meadows are leased for farming. Growing commercial activity provides opportunities to expand the leisure opportunities of the Park, adding to the existing attractions of Peterborough.

- ~ **Ham Lane:** By 2022 we will have explored possible alternative uses of land close to Ham Lane.
- ~ **Orton Mere:** By 2022 visitors will enjoy new catering and toilet facilities at Orton Mere.
- ~ **Ferry Short Breaks:** By 2050 visitors will stay overnight for short breaks at new visitor accommodation.
- ~ **Nenergy:** By 2050 renewable energy will be live at Nene Park, powering visitor facilities.





## Developing skills, outreach and learning

### 12 Increasing opportunities for skills development

Nene Park provides many school children with a fun, inspiring and outdoor learning experience. A limited number of adult courses have been offered and been successful. Peterborough lacks courses and suitable facilities for land based skills and training.

- ~ **Outdoor Learning:** By 2022 all ages will benefit from improved outdoor learning spaces.
- ~ **Indoor Learning:** By 2022 the Discovery Den and Outdoor Classroom will be refreshed and improved.
- ~ **Learning Futures:** By 2032 an inspiring and engaging learning experience will be provided at the new Ferry Meadows Visitor Centre.

### 13 Improving volunteer facilities

The numbers of Park volunteers are growing and they make an essential contribution to improving Nene Park through their work including bulb planting and wildlife habitat creation. Volunteers lack adequate facilities for changing, resting and short stay accommodation.

~ **Volunteer Base:** By 2022 volunteers will have a base and an improved space for showering, eating and relaxing in between tasks.

~ **Volunteer Station:** By 2032 volunteers will have purpose built permanent accommodation for changing, relaxing and training, to make their visits to Nene Park comfortable and welcoming.

### 14 Developing outreach work

Staff and volunteers know not everyone in Peterborough is able to visit Nene Park for a range of reasons. Also, people have local green spaces we could help improve and where we could run activities. We could be making contact with more communities to see how we can work together.

~ **Peoples Patch:** Up to 2050 and beyond our staff and volunteers will be working with local communities to improve their own local parks and run environmental activities.





## Promoting effective communications

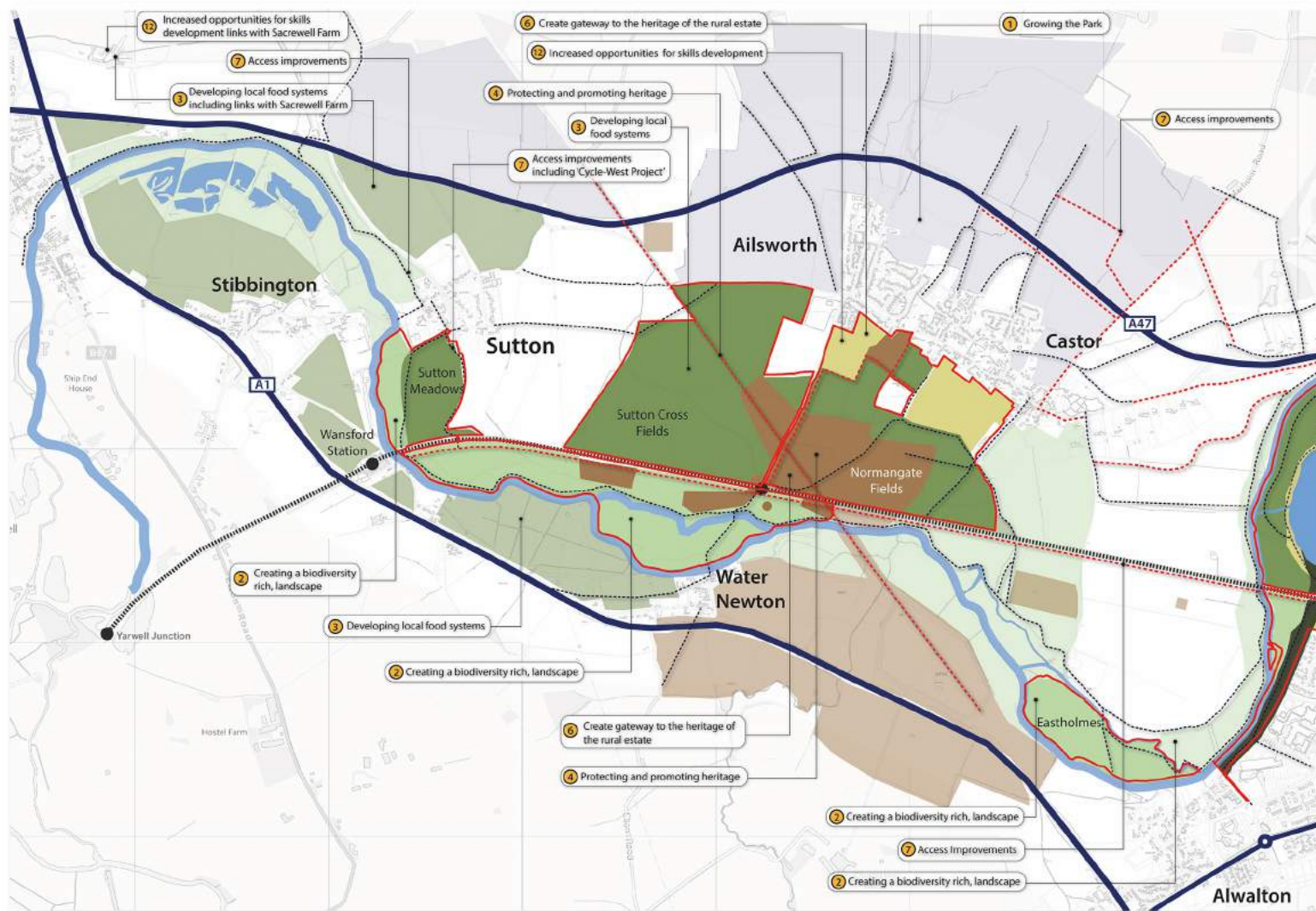
### 15 Improving the Ferry Meadows Visitor Centre

Ferry Meadows Visitor Centre is the most popular meeting point at Nene Park but the building and surroundings are out-dated and increasingly expensive to maintain. The Centre building lacks sufficient space for visitors to discover more about the Park and its heritage and provide comfort in bad weather and colder, wetter months.

- ~ **Ferry Meadows Visitor Centre landscaping:** Up to 2022 and beyond we will improve the landscaping making it more attractive, interesting and functional.
- ~ **Refreshing Ferry Meadows Visitor Centre:** By 2022 we will improve the Centre to be attractive, fun and a great place to relax and learn about the park.
- ~ **Ferry Meadows Visitor Centre:** By 2032 we will transform peoples' visitor experience with a new Visitor Centre for Nene Park.







## The Roman (Rural) Estate

### Legend

#### Land use and zoning

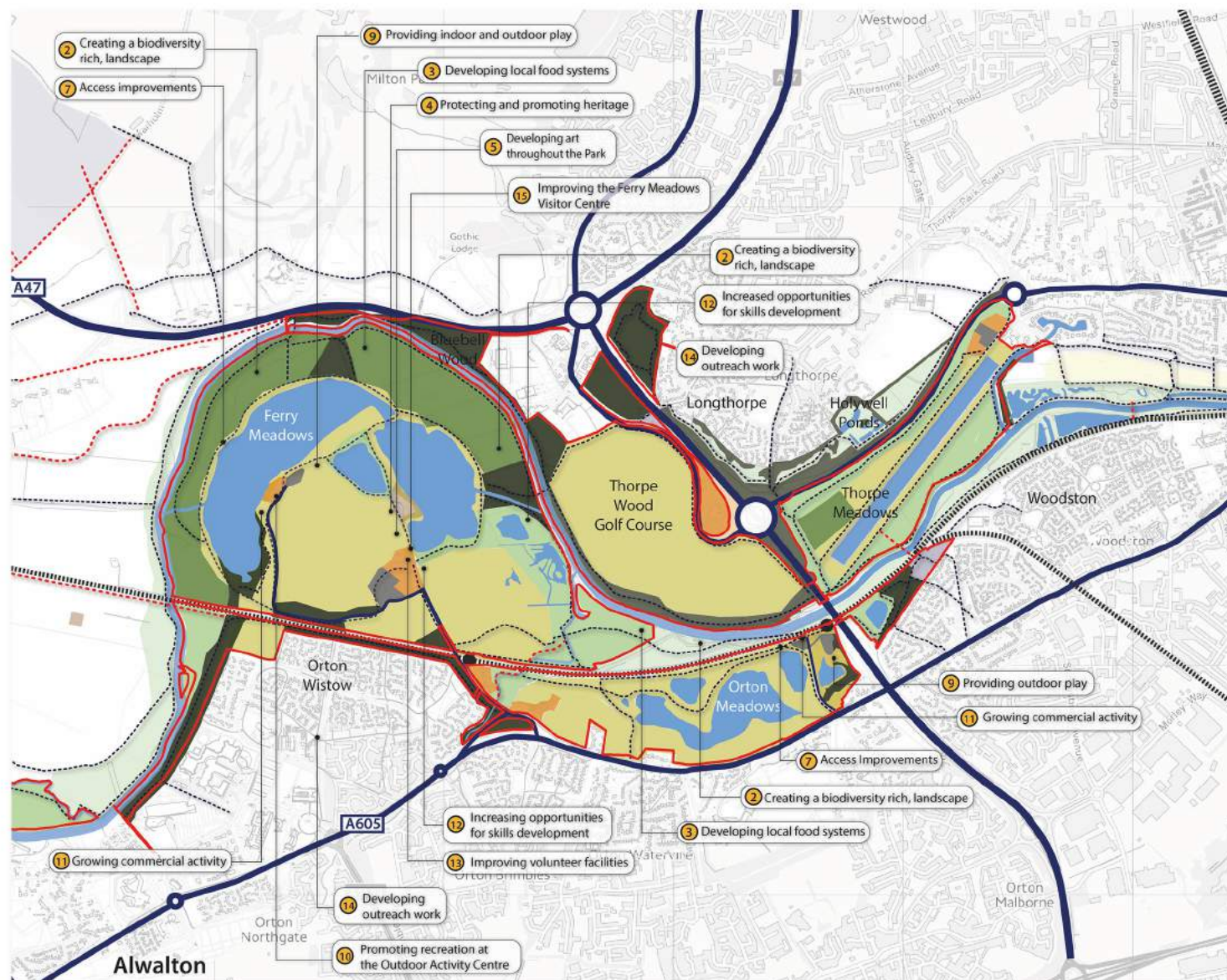
- River Nene
- Waterbodies
- Woodland areas
- Wetland/Meadow habitat areas
- Agricultural land
- Activity areas
- Heritage areas
- Retail and Commercial land
- Main car parking areas
- Possible new housing (Dependent on local plan)
- Current Nene Park Trust landholding
- Key pedestrian cycle circulation routes
- Potential New Circulation Routes
- Major roads
- Railway lines and stations

#### Land use and zoning non NPT Estate

- Woodland areas
- Wetland/Meadow habitat areas
- Agricultural land
- Activity areas
- Heritage areas
- Retail and Commercial land
- Possible new housing (Dependent on local plan)

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## Ferry Meadows

### Legend

#### Land use and zoning

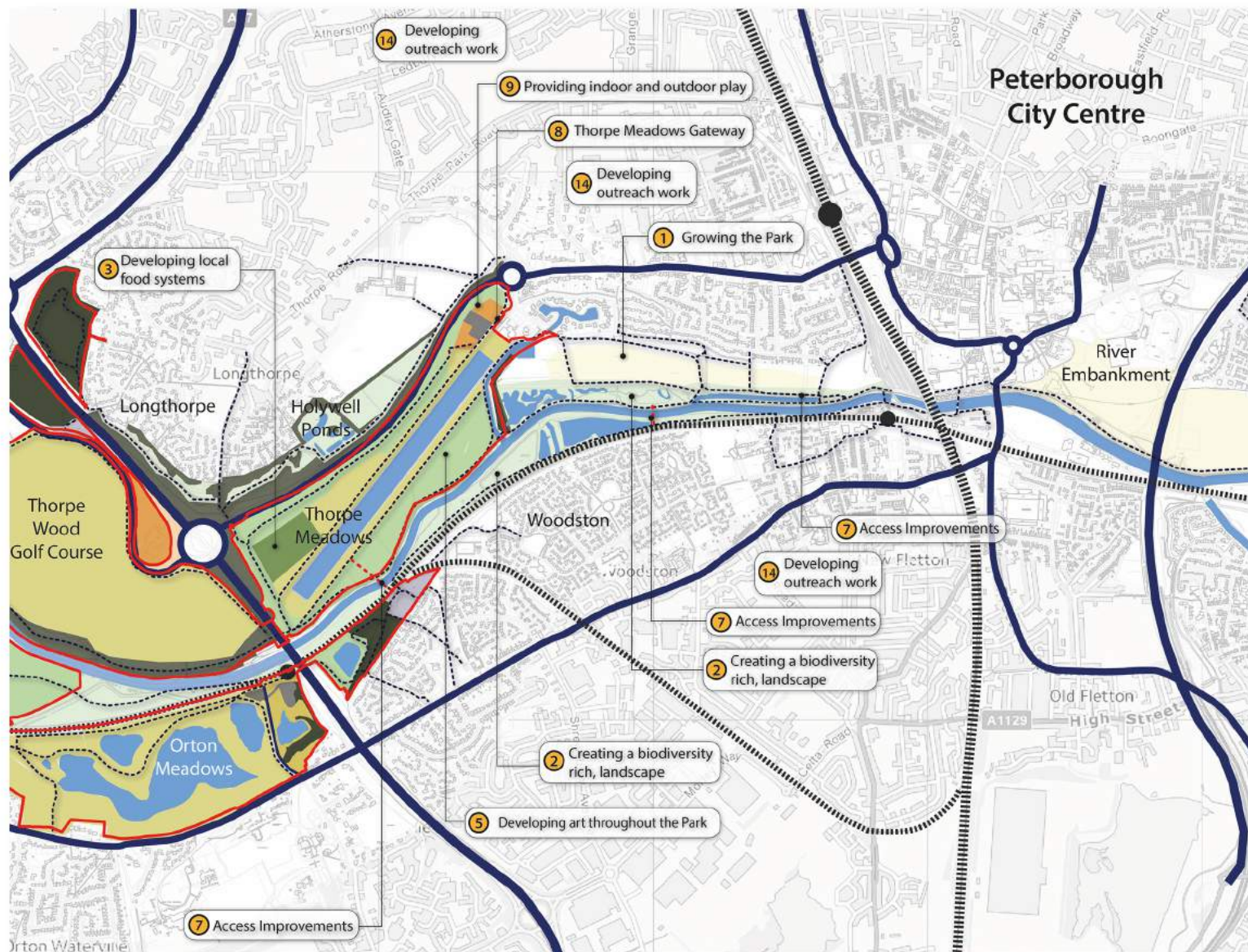
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- Railway lines and stations

#### Land use and zoning non NPT Estate

- Woodland areas
- Wetland/Meadow habitat areas
- Agricultural land
- Activity areas
- Heritage areas
- Retail and Commercial land
- Possible new housing (Dependent on local plan)

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## Thorpe Meadows

### Legend

#### Land use and zoning

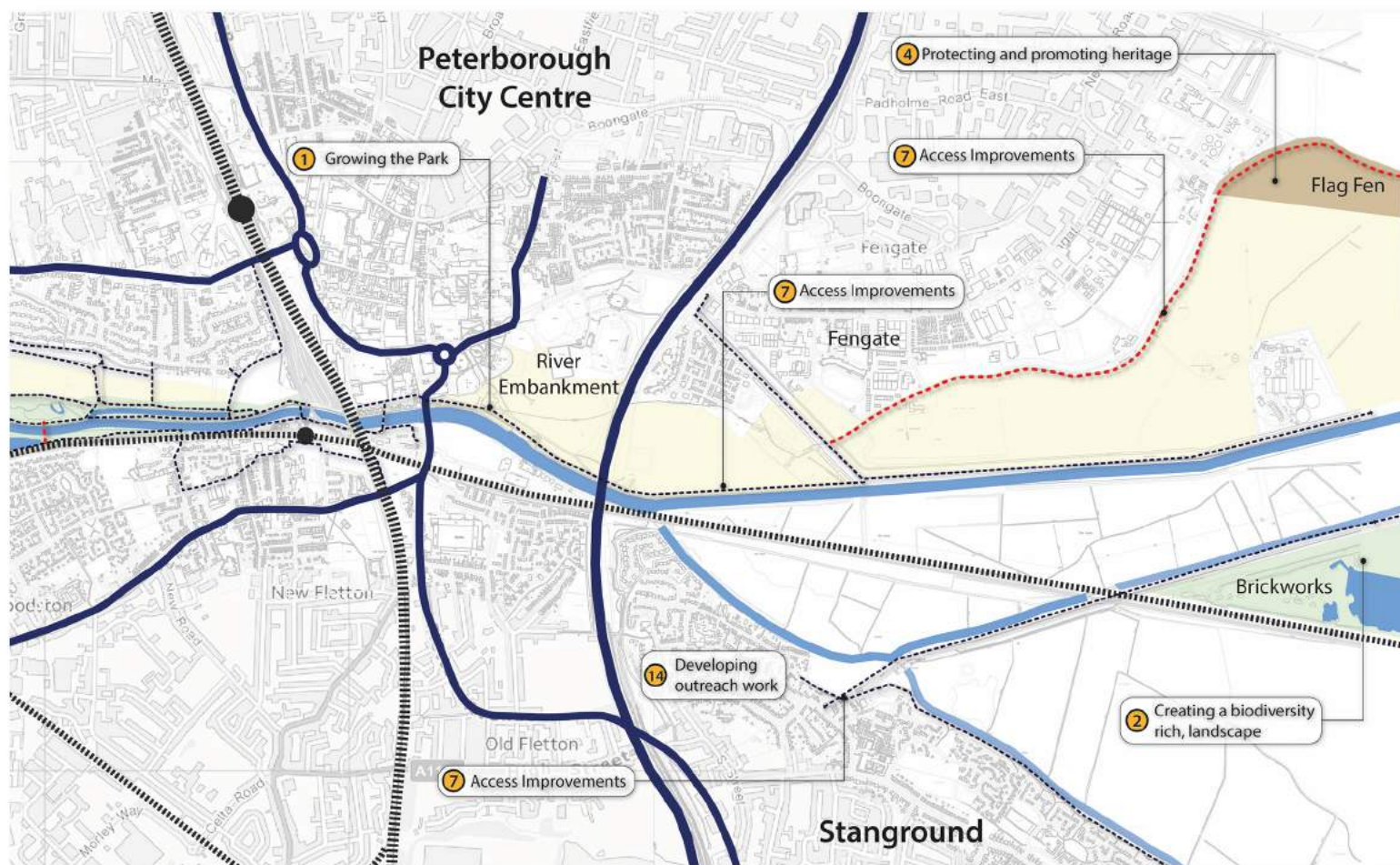
- River Nene
- Waterbodies
- Woodland areas
- Wetland/Meadow habitat areas
- Agricultural land
- Activity areas
- Heritage areas
- Retail and Commercial land
- Main car parking areas
- Possible new housing (Dependent on local plan)
- Current Nene Park Trust landholding
- Key pedestrian cycle circulation routes
- Potential New Circulation Routes
- Major roads
- Railway lines and stations

#### Land use and zoning non NPT Estate

- Woodland areas
- Wetland/Meadow habitat areas
- Agricultural land
- Activity areas
- Heritage areas
- Retail and Commercial land
- Possible new housing (Dependent on local plan)

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## The Embankment

### Legend

#### Land use and zoning

- River Nene
- Waterbodies
- Woodland areas
- Wetland/Meadow habitat areas
- Agricultural land
- Activity areas
- Heritage areas
- Retail and Commercial land
- Main car parking areas
- Possible new housing (Dependent on local plan)
- Current Nene Park Trust landholding
- Key pedestrian cycle circulation routes
- Potential New Circulation Routes
- Major roads
- Railway lines and stations

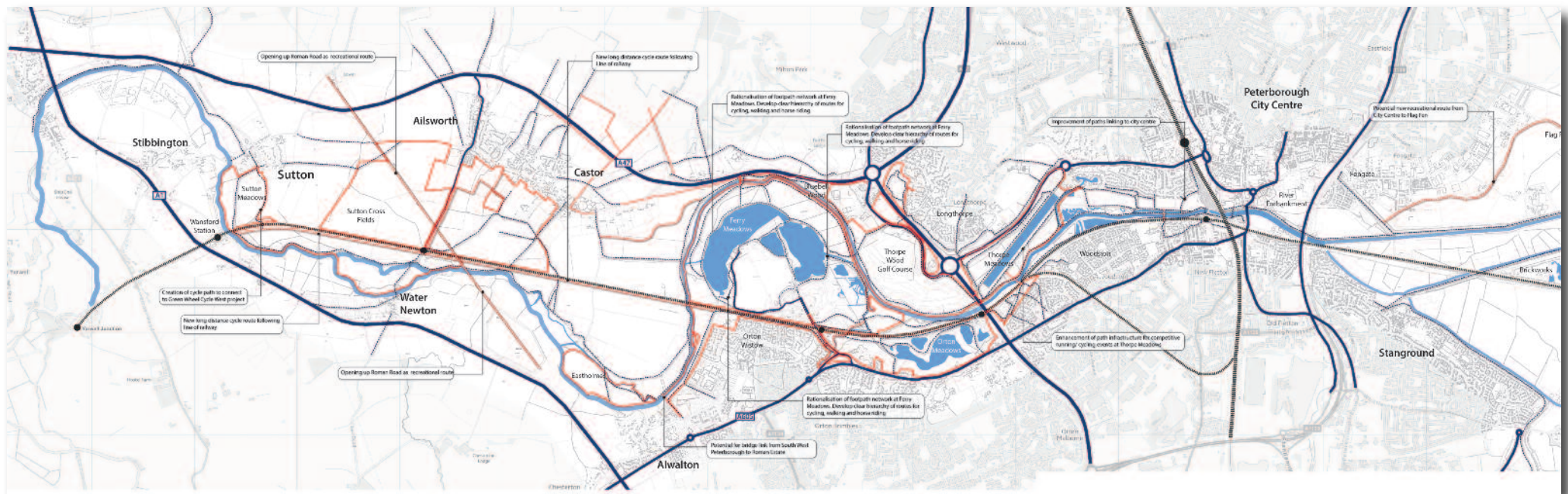
#### Land use and zoning non NPT Estate

- Woodland areas
- Wetland/Meadow habitat areas
- Agricultural land
- Activity areas
- Heritage areas
- Retail and Commercial land
- Possible new housing (Dependent on local plan)

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## Access and circulation map



### Legend

- Existing land ownership boundaries
- Key pedestrian/cycle circulation routes
- - - Potential new circulation routes
- Major Roads
- Railway Lines
- Railway Stations
- River Nene
- Waterbodies

## Our thanks to all the people and organisations that have helped to develop this Plan.

### Volunteers, visitors and local residents

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### Organisations in Nene Park

Tim Shaw, The Beefeater Granary and Premier Inn  
Duncan Brown, Louise Clipsham, Lynch Farm Riding  
Sue Buddle, The Woodman  
Stephen Long, David Longfoot, Agricultural Tenant  
Raj Regmi, Meadow Brown  
Bill Elmore, Nene Bowmen  
John Whitby, Nene Valley Railway  
Andrew Coverdale, Notcutts  
Kevin Bird, Orton Water Fishing Rights  
Robert Hustwayte, Packers Canoe Club  
Iain Crighton, Peterborough Chamber of Commerce  
John Canton, Peterborough City Rowing Club  
Pete Atkinson, Gary Cooper, Proteus Canoe Club  
James Hopgood, Colin Wade, Peterborough Sailability  
Richard Hunt, Vivacity

### Local community organisations

Andy Starnes, City Fibre  
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Mark Richards, Metal  
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Carly Leonard, PECT  
Barry Eagle, Peterborough Yacht Club  
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Nicky Noble, St Botolphs School  
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Steve Upex, Nene Valley Archaeology Trust

### Statutory Agencies

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Philip Clarke, Cambridgeshire County Council  
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Parish Council  
Megan Ellershaw, Joan Pickett Ailsworth Parish Council  
Daphne Sandles, Orton Waterville Parish Council

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### Nene Park Trust Board

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Elizabeth Mugova, Mike Williams, Ian Hodge,  
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Maps by Chris Park and SLR Consulting  
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# NENE PARK MASTER PLAN

# 2017 2050



Nene Park Trust  
PETERBOROUGH  
*for people, for nature, for ever*