

Heathrow

HEATHROW  
NATURE  
POSITIVE PLAN

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## FOREWORD

I am very pleased to introduce Heathrow's Nature Positive Plan which outlines our goals and commitments to support the transition to a nature positive future.

Flying has the unmatched ability to connect millions of people with nature. It is crucial we look after the world we travel and live in to and ensure that the nature so many passengers go to see will still be there for future generations to enjoy.

Heathrow is critical for the UK economy and international connectivity, and we also impact on nature, both directly – for example through water and energy consumption – and indirectly – for example through the products and services procured through our supply chain.

The airport is also dependent on nature – for example for the raw materials required to maintain our infrastructure, the food served to colleagues and passengers, and flood mitigation to ensure a resilient operation.

The approach laid out in this plan builds on Heathrow's strong track record of biodiversity management and nature-related efforts. I look forward to working alongside others to deliver on our commitments for a better world.

**THOMAS WOLDBYE**  
Chief Executive Officer





## INTRODUCTION

Nature is crucial to our wellbeing, including ours as a business. Over half of the world's total GDP – US\$44 trillion – is moderately or highly directly dependent on nature, biodiversity (the variety and variability of life) and the services they provide.<sup>1</sup> This is because we depend on nature, for example, to provide food, filter air and create energy. Airports require large quantities of nature-derived materials, water and energy to operate effectively. Like all businesses, our sector can harm nature in many ways.

We understand that efforts to reduce our negative impacts and conserve nature and its biodiversity are essential to maintaining the services that nature provides to people, ensuring health, food, sustainable economies and an adequate environmental quality for all living beings.

Nature is being degraded faster than at any other time in human history, and this poses a great risk to us and the world. Our long-term global risk landscape is dominated by the deterioration of the environment.<sup>2</sup> In each of the last four years, biodiversity loss has been ranked within the top five most severe risks on a global scale over the next five to ten years.<sup>3</sup> This is not a surprise as it is estimated a collapse of ecosystem services provided by nature such as wild pollination, provision of food from marine fisheries and timber from native forests could result in a decline in global GDP of \$2.7 trillion annually by 2030.<sup>4</sup>

While the risks to our global economy are daunting, restoring nature provides us with great opportunities. Nature currently provides us services worth at least \$125 trillion per year globally<sup>5</sup> and transitioning towards 'nature positive' activities could lead to annual business opportunities worth \$10 trillion and create 395 million jobs by 2030.<sup>6</sup>

As the disastrous consequences of misuse of nature have become increasingly visible, there has been a paradigm shift in how nations, businesses, investors and consumers value nature. This culminated at the end of 2022 in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) which sets an overarching goal of halting and reversing nature and biodiversity loss by 2030.

In 2023 the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD), a global initiative supported by a coalition of partners including the UNEP and WWF, published its final recommendations for nature-related risk management and disclosure to help organisations report and act on evolving nature-related dependencies, impacts, risks, and opportunities.

At the national level, the UK government has set an apex goal to improve nature and protect 30% of UK land and sea by 2030 as part of its Environmental Improvement Plan 2023, and mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain legislation (BNG) came into effect in 2024 to ensure development has a measurably positive impact on biodiversity, compared to what was there before.

The nature positive movement is fast gaining momentum with governments, NGOs, financial institutions, businesses, communities and consumers across the world. In this global context, nature positive is solidifying as the way forward for organisations that want to survive and thrive in the long-term. Consequently, businesses are starting to act by delivering efforts to transition to a nature positive future.

Connecting People and Planet is our sustainability strategy. It sets out our goals to cut carbon emissions in the air and on the ground by 2030 and to make Heathrow, and the area around the airport, a great place to live and work. We have prioritised nature and biodiversity as a key material issue and have already committed to work with partners to support a nature network around Heathrow and develop a Nature Positive Plan for the airport to 2030. This plan delivers on our commitment.

<sup>1</sup> WEF, 2023

<sup>2</sup> Global Risks Perceptions Survey (GRPS), 2023

<sup>3</sup> WEF Global Risks Report, 2023., WEF Global Risks Report, 2022., WEF Global Risks Report, 2021., WEF Global Risks Report, 2020.

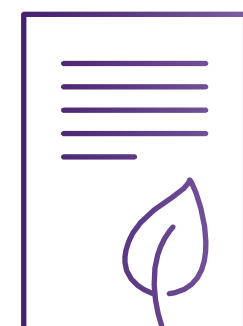
<sup>4</sup> The Economic Case for Nature, 2021

<sup>5</sup> WWF Living Planet Report, 2018

<sup>6</sup> WEF, 2020



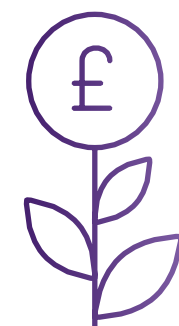
# OUR JOURNEY



Our first environmental policy.



First obtained biodiversity benchmark award, a certification issued by the Wildlife Trusts which encourages, recognises and rewards the continual improvement of landholdings for wildlife, for our 13 biodiversity sites.



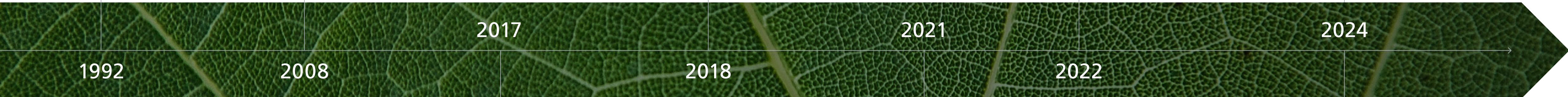
Our first investment into UK nature-based carbon removal sites.



We updated our sustainability strategy which includes Heathrow's objective supporting the nature positive transition.



Inaugural Adopter of the Taskforce for Nature-related Financial Disclosures initiative.



1992

2008

2017

2018

2021

2022

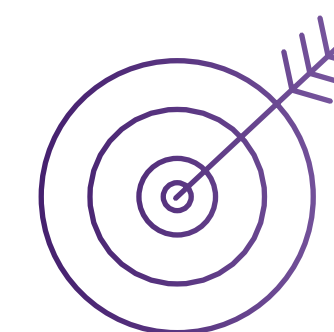
2024



Launch of Heathrow 2.0 Sustainability Strategy.



Founding signatory of the Get Nature Positive campaign, committing to work towards halting and reversing the decline of nature by 2030.



Nature Positive Plan published including commitments to support restoring and protecting nature.



## NATURE POSITIVE TERMS AND PRINCIPLES

### WHAT IS NATURE?

Nature refers to all living and non-living components of the natural world, with an emphasis on the diversity of living organisms (including people) called biodiversity, and their interactions among themselves and with their environment.<sup>7</sup> Nature covers land, freshwater, and marine environments, as well as the components within them and the atmosphere.

### WHAT IS NATURE POSITIVE?

According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), becoming nature positive involves halting and reversing the loss of nature from a 2020 baseline, reducing future negative impacts, and restoring and renewing nature, to put it measurably on the path to recovery.



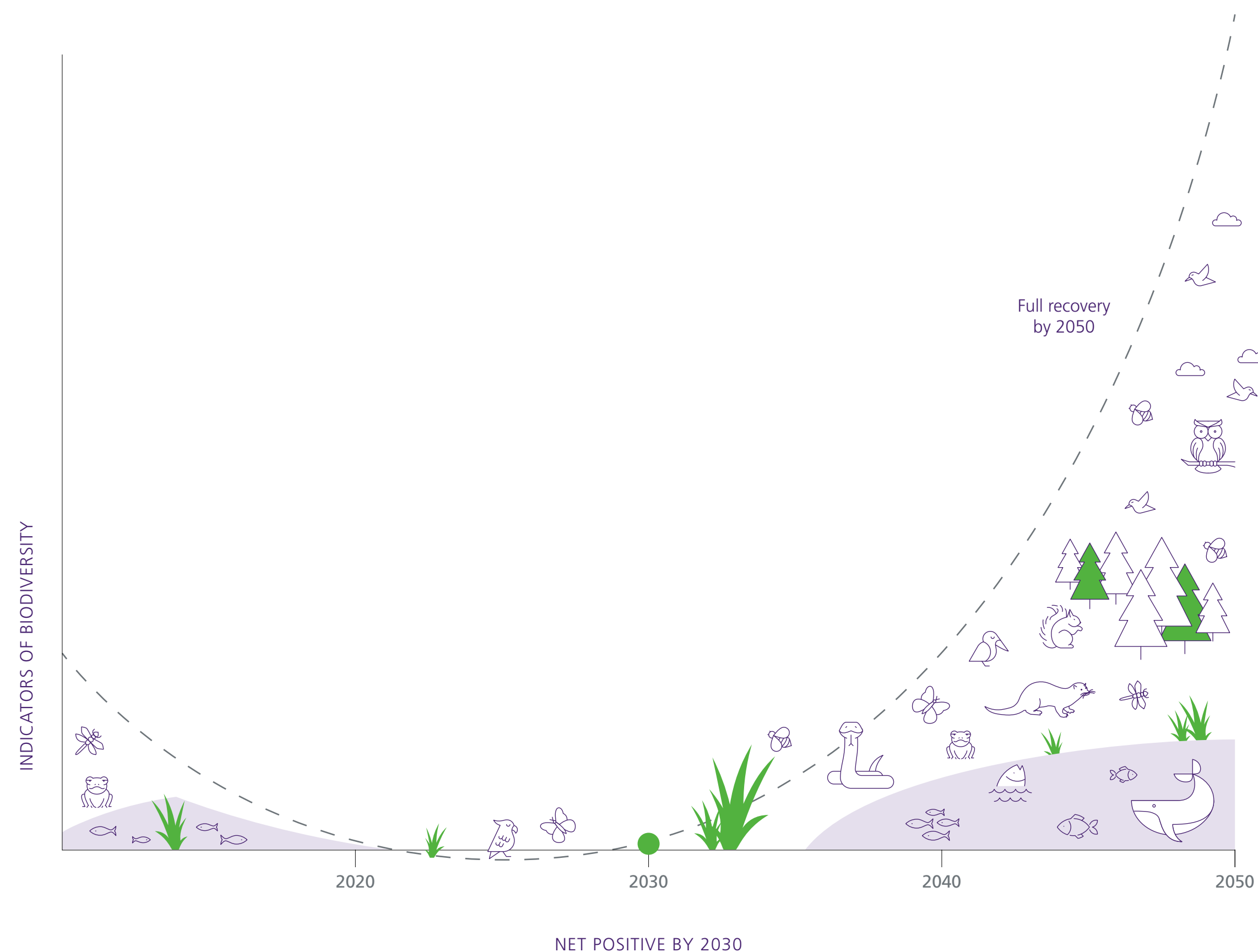
### KEY PRINCIPLES FOR NATURE POSITIVE ACTION

In thinking about what nature positive means for Heathrow we have considered the following three core components:

1. **Achieving a measurable net gain in nature compared to an established baseline** – reducing negative impacts on and restoring nature so that there is measurably more nature than when the baseline was set.
2. **Acting on all components of nature** – positively impacting biodiversity, but also land, freshwater, and atmospheric environments.
3. **Achieving systemic change in activities across the entire value chain** – integrating nature into day-to-day decision making and acting across direct and indirect operations and assets.

The nature positive journey is both complex and iterative and Heathrow is excited to play our role in supporting this transition. Airports interact with nature in a unique way – while our direct impacts are limited geographically, Heathrow is a global hub for travellers, airlines, businesses, and products with impacts expanding beyond our perimeter via air and land. In developing the Nature Positive Plan we have used the TNFD Locate Evaluate Assess Prepare (LEAP) framework to identify our impacts and dependencies, and formulate goals and commitments to respond to these.

### HALT AND REVERSE NATURE LOSS BY 2030 AND FULL RECOVERY BY 2050



<sup>7</sup> Based on Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures Glossary, 2023



## OUR APPROACH TO THE NATURE POSITIVE PLAN

### ASSESSING OUR IMPACTS AND DEPENDENCIES

To inform the development of the Nature Positive Plan we completed an assessment to understand our impacts and dependencies on nature using the TNFD's LEAP approach (Locate, Evaluate, Assess and Prepare). LEAP is a recognised method for organisations to determine material impacts and dependencies as well as the risks and opportunities associated with them. The impacts, dependencies, risks, and opportunities were then given scores from low to high based on what was most material to our operations as well as to the wider environment and society. For the supply chain, we have also undertaken an initial analysis of our prioritised list of suppliers' impacts and dependencies using the Exploring Natural Capital Opportunities, Risks and Exposure (ENCORE) tool.

### WHAT ARE NATURE DEPENDENCIES AND IMPACTS?

**Dependencies** are aspects of environmental assets and ecosystem services that a person or an organisation relies on to function.

**Impacts** refer to a change in the state of nature which may result in changes to the capacity of nature to provide social and economic functions. Impacts can be positive or negative.

### FORMULATION OF GOALS AND COMMITMENTS

The impacts, dependencies, risks, and opportunities identified through the assessment have been used to inform the goals and commitments within the Nature Positive Plan. This ensures that they are evidence-based and aligned with best practice. We have also considered the Science Based Targets Network (SBTN) guidance which is based on the best available science and is aligned with global goals on climate, nature and development including the Global Biodiversity Framework, the Paris Agreement, and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. We used the SBTN's Action Framework, AR3T, when developing our goals and commitments – designing them to avoid and reduce our pressures on nature loss, restore and regenerate nature, and transform underlying systems.

### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The Nature Positive Plan has been developed and validated through extensive engagement with many teams across Heathrow, as well as with external partners and stakeholders to ensure our approach is robust and deliverable.

### MONITORING PROGRESS

As with other Connecting People and Planet objectives, we commit to monitoring and reporting on our progress against our Nature Positive Plan in our annual sustainability reporting celebrating successes and identifying opportunities for improvement. We will disclose our nature related impacts, dependencies, risks and opportunities in line with TNFD. For information on our performance please see our [sustainability reports on our website](#).





# OUR INTERACTION WITH NATURE

Our assessment of Heathrow's interaction with nature has identified a range of dependencies and impacts which have then been used to set our goals and commitments presented in this plan. Figure 2 provides an overview of the key dependencies and impacts that were identified in the assessment. Heathrow maintains a range of existing controls to manage environmental impacts. We are also required to ensure that we adhere to aerodrome safeguarding requirements and implement effective wildlife hazard management processes. Further, we are permitted by regulators to undertake certain activities and maintain an environmental management system to monitor performance and drive continual improvements.

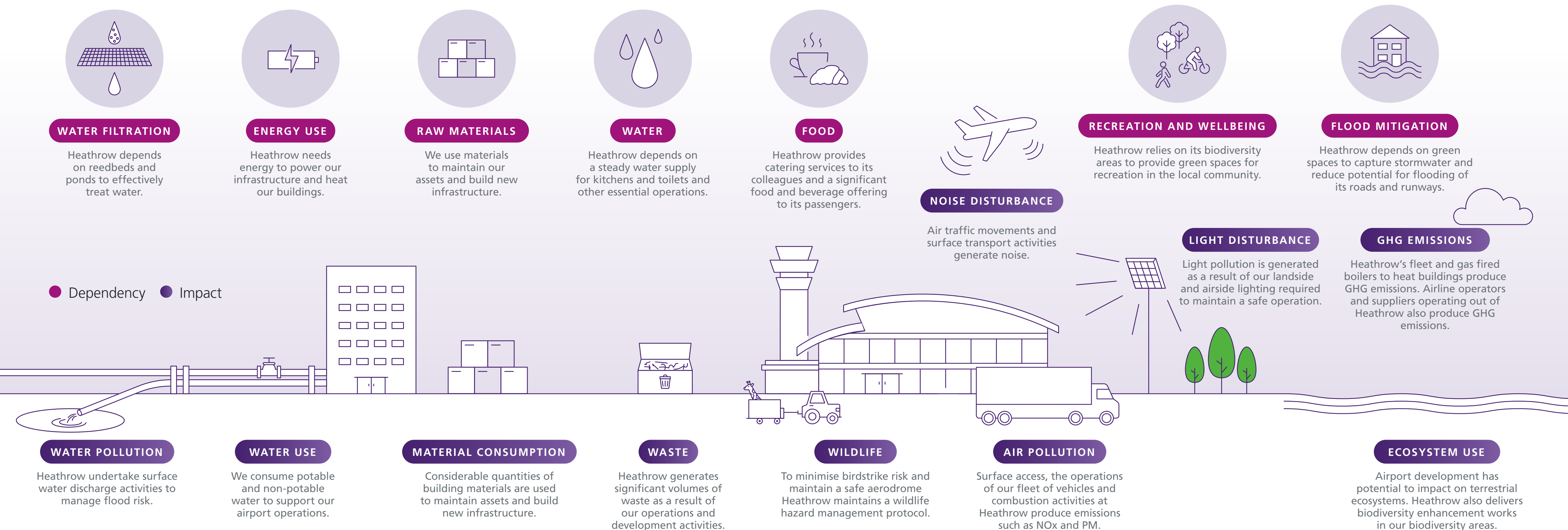


Figure 2  
Nature dependencies and impacts at Heathrow Airport.



## NATURE POSITIVE PLAN STRUCTURE

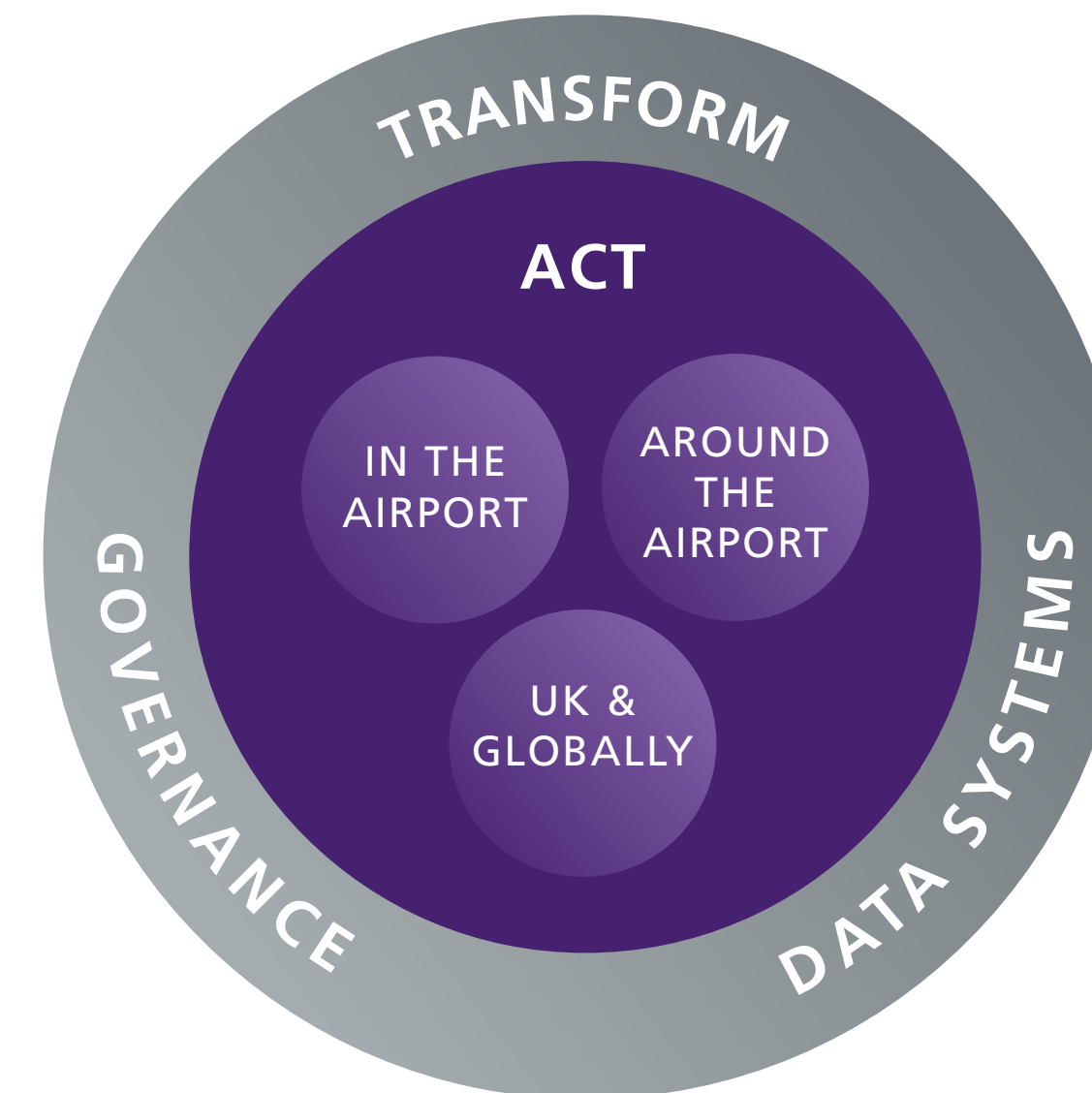
To support efforts to transition to a nature positive future, we have identified three focus areas, with associated goals and commitments. These are designed to address the nature dependencies and impacts, and associated risks and opportunities identified through the LEAP assessment. Where relevant, specific targets have been made within commitments.

We will act to reduce our negative impacts and restore nature through three focus areas, specifically:

1. **At the airport** – areas owned by Heathrow within the airport footprint including the airfield and terminal buildings as well as airside green spaces adjacent to buildings and runways.
2. **Around the airport** – areas which aren't within the airport footprint such as our biodiversity sites, car parking areas and surrounding local communities.
3. **UK / Global** – nature beyond local communities and how we can positively influence this, for example our supply chain, supporting wider scientific understanding, and collaborating with industry in the UK and globally.

To deliver on the three focus areas, we will embed nature positive decision making into governance and ensuring data systems, capture and monitoring are suitable to support long-lasting change.

These focus areas are described in greater detail in the following sections.



### EXISTING PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

Our Nature Positive Plan is our first coordinated effort at addressing our impacts on nature holistically. However, we have been working to reduce our environmental impacts for many years as outlined in Connecting People and Planet as our overarching sustainability strategy, and in issue-specific plans such as the Net Zero Plan and Giving Back Programme. The Nature Positive Plan recognises these interactions and references them where relevant.



## 1. AT THE AIRPORT

The airport is a large and complex multi-use space with built up areas providing services to travellers, businesses and colleagues. The site contains paved areas for manoeuvring large pieces of equipment, aircraft, and transport, as well as extensive areas of strictly maintained green space in and around the site.

The airport is dependent on a range of natural resources such as water, energy and materials which are essential for our operations and maintenance and development activities. For example, we depend on natural gas to heat our buildings and on materials such as asphalt and concrete for runway and road maintenance. Nature also provides the food consumed at the airport by passengers and colleagues.

Despite maintaining compliance and implementing controls to mitigate environmental impacts, we negatively impact nature both directly and indirectly, by consuming resources via our construction and maintenance activities, producing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through our fleet operations and heating of buildings, generating waste from our terminal operations, and creating disturbances as a result of aircraft movements and surface access.





## 2. AROUND THE AIRPORT

Heathrow has significant landholdings around the airport boundary comprising greenspaces that serve operational purposes, such as flood storage and water treatment, as well as land that is specifically managed for biodiversity and community benefit.

Our assessment identified that Heathrow has a degree of dependency on the biological control processes afforded by habitats around the airport, for example the reedbeds at Camp 4, Mayfield Farm and Princes Lakes are used as part of our Pollution Control System and treat surface water runoff preventing this from entering and potentially harming the local environment.

Our assessment also highlighted how the biodiversity sites result in positive impacts for nature and society and present significant opportunities going forwards. Our biodiversity sites have positive impacts on wildlife in the area, providing them with corridors to move naturally between sites across the local landscape. This connectivity makes Heathrow an important regional site for nature conservation linking urbanised areas to areas of the wider countryside. The habitats on the biodiversity sites also provide valuable ecosystem services including carbon sequestration benefits from the trees and woodlands and pollination benefits from the grasslands.

In addition, many of the biodiversity sites are accessible to local communities and provide opportunities for recreational activities such as walking and cycling alongside improvements in mental health and wellbeing benefits.

We also have an impact on nature as a result of the way people travel to and from Heathrow which influences traffic volumes and consequently carbon emissions and local air quality. Our [Surface Access Strategy](#) aims to influence passenger and colleague choices, widen the range of travel options and improve the quality of the travel modes that generate the best outcomes for both people and nature.

### CASE STUDY

#### MANAGING LANDHOLDINGS FOR BIODIVERSITY

Since 2008 Heathrow has managed 170ha of our landholdings located around the airport for biodiversity benefit (roughly 10% of our total footprint). 10 of our 13 sites are accredited to the Wildlife Trusts Biodiversity Benchmark Award.





### 3. UK / GLOBAL

Our interactions with nature go beyond the airport through activities in our value chain. Every day, the operations of suppliers, airlines, concessionaires, tenants and passengers, each interact with nature through the products and services procured to keep the airport running.

These interactions range from the coffee beans used by food and beverage outlets to the materials procured to support our capital investment programme.

Understanding our interactions with nature upstream and downstream the value chain requires us to ask new questions and gather data in new ways. Understanding our impacts on nature through the value chain represents a vital first step and the work we have undertaken builds the foundations for further collaboration with our suppliers, retailers, airlines and passengers, to highlight and address impacts and dependencies supporting a nature positive transition.

The results from our LEAP assessment demonstrate that, based on percentage of spend, over 97% of Heathrow's supplier headquarters are located within the UK. We will work with our suppliers to identify opportunities to understand and reduce our impacts on nature.

In terms of wider aviation industry support and collaboration, we recognise the role that airports can play in addressing the threat of illegal wildlife trafficking and we endeavour to play our part in addressing this issue with partners.

#### CASE STUDY

##### UK NATURE RESTORATION EFFORTS

Supporting our efforts to decarbonise and support nature recovery we have invested in the creation of over 200 hectares of woodland, covering nine sites across the UK from Aberdeenshire to Carmarthenshire.





## KEY GOALS AT A GLANCE

The materiality assessment has revealed our dependencies and impacts on nature. From this assessment, as well as our stakeholder engagement, we have identified our goals across focus areas, at the airport, around the airport, UK and global and governance and data. These goals are designed to address our impacts and dependencies and focus efforts on our transition towards being a nature positive business in the future.



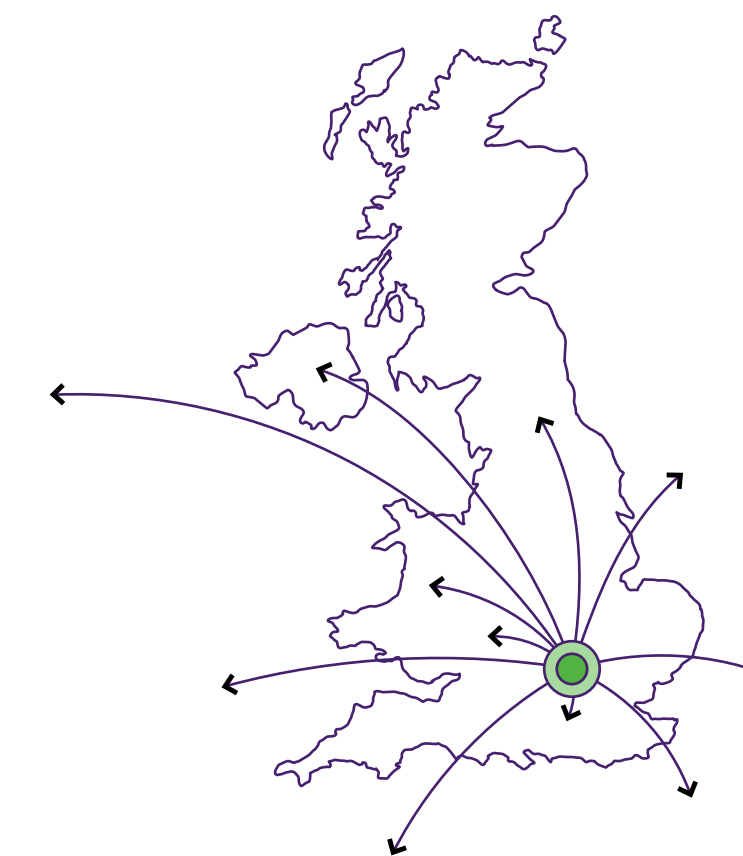
### AT THE AIRPORT

- GOAL 1 Identify and reduce nature related impacts at the airport
- GOAL 2 Deliver resource efficiency improvements
- GOAL 3 Use nature-based solutions to solve Heathrow's challenges wherever feasible



### AROUND THE AIRPORT

- GOAL 4 Improve the condition of our existing biodiversity areas
- GOAL 5 Expand nature networks to support ecological resilience
- GOAL 6 Provide opportunities for engagement with Heathrow's Nature Positive ambition with colleagues and the community



### UK / GLOBAL

- GOAL 7 Identify and reduce impacts in the value chain
- GOAL 8 Play our part in tackling illegal wildlife trafficking
- GOAL 9 Work collaboratively with organisations to reduce negative impacts and increase positive impacts of nature
- GOAL 10 Disclose Heathrow's impacts and dependencies on nature

### GOVERNANCE

Integrate nature positive considerations into decision making processes



## GOALS AND COMMITMENTS – AT THE AIRPORT



### COMMITMENT 1.1 ASSESS AND REDUCE NATURE IMPACTS FROM HEATHROW'S OPERATIONS

Heathrow's operational activities can result in negative impacts on nature. To deliver improvements we will seek to further understand material nature-related impacts in line with industry best practice methodologies and seek to reduce these impacts through enhancing or introducing new controls or processes where possible.



**KEY ACTIONS**  
Assess impacts on nature from operations and deliver interventions to mitigate these impacts.

### COMMITMENT 1.2 REDUCE IMPACTS ON NEARBY WATER SYSTEMS BY WORKING WITH PARTNERS AND IMPROVING MONITORING

Heathrow is positioned near several important water bodies including the River Crane, River Colne, and the Duke of Northumberland River. Through the implementation of the Clean Water Programme, we will undertake further research into water polluting activities and aim to reduce impacts to nearby receiving water bodies. This will involve enhancing monitoring of receiving waters and reviewing onsite practices to reduce pollution.



**KEY ACTIONS**  
Work with stakeholders to update and enhance the Clean Water Programme.

### COMMITMENT 1.3 ENGAGE TEAM HEATHROW TO ENCOURAGE SUSTAINABLY PROCURED PRODUCTS AND CONSUMABLES

The global food industry and the production of other consumables are primary drivers of biodiversity loss (UNEP, 2021). We can help reduce our impacts on nature through the food and other products on offer to colleagues and passengers. We will work with caterers and suppliers to ensure products and consumables being provided at Heathrow are from sustainable sources. This will reduce our impacts on nature in the supply chain.



**KEY ACTIONS**  
Develop a checklist for food suppliers to ensure food supplied meets specified sustainability criteria.





## GOALS AND COMMITMENTS – AT THE AIRPORT

# GOAL 2

## DELIVER RESOURCE EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENTS

Resources including materials, energy and water are used to support our operations and construction activities. Traditional approaches to resource use are linear and put significant pressure on nature. To reduce our impacts, it is critical to become a more resource efficient airport. We have already committed to a Zero Waste ambition in our Sustainability Strategy. The goals provided in this plan complement this by specifically considering resource consumption and its impacts on nature.

### COMMITMENT 2.1 IMPROVE WATER EFFICIENCY AT THE AIRPORT

Our operations depend on a stable water supply, and we aim to ensure that the water we use is being used efficiently. Opportunities to enhance monitoring and metering and improve efficiencies will be explored with the aim of improving water efficiency and reducing water wastage.



#### KEY ACTIONS

We will identify water efficiency and reuse opportunities at the airport with stakeholders and implement improvements.

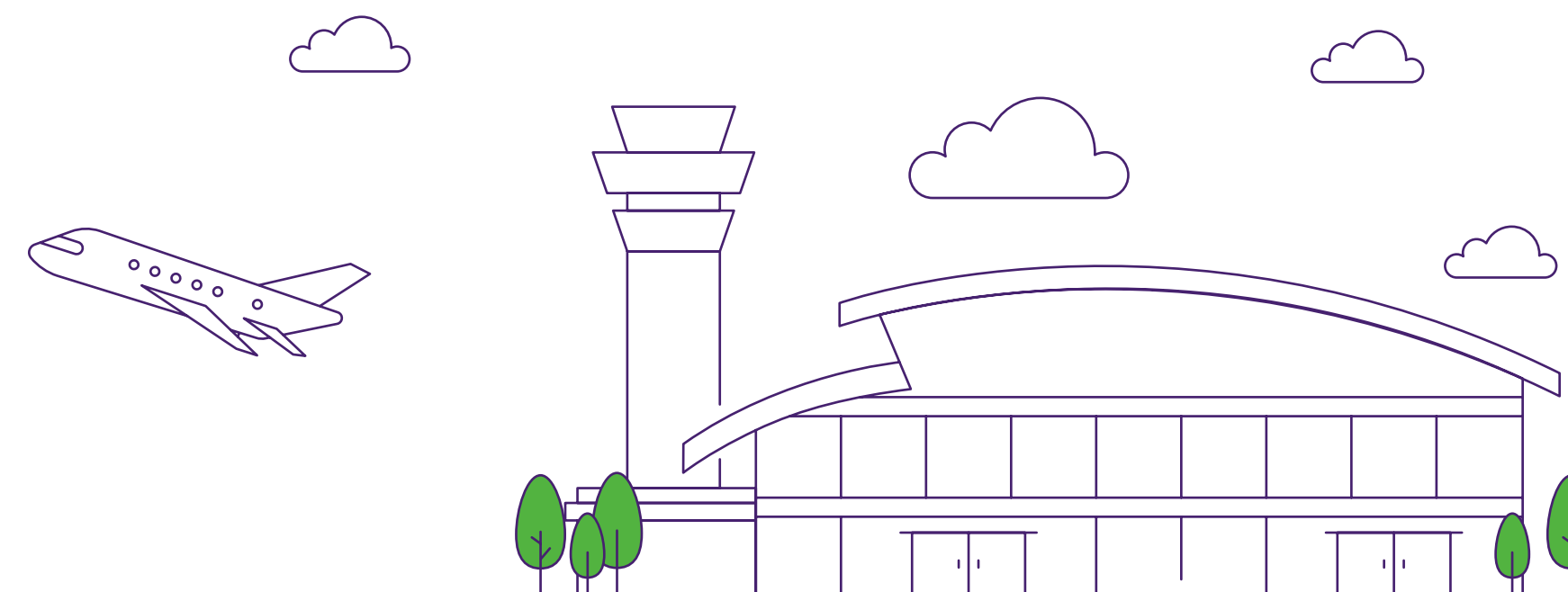
### COMMITMENT 2.2 SOURCE SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS FOR INFRASTRUCTURE CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES

We use materials like asphalt and concrete to build new infrastructure and maintain existing facilities. Materials required for building and maintenance can impact nature through their extraction and production processes. We will reduce our indirect impacts by ensuring the materials being used consider nature-related impacts. We will also avoid and reduce material consumption where possible.



#### KEY ACTIONS

We will work with suppliers to select materials which have the least environmental impact on nature.





## GOALS AND COMMITMENTS – AT THE AIRPORT

# GOAL 3

## USE NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS TO SOLVE HEATHROW'S CHALLENGES WHEREVER FEASIBLE

Heathrow and the wider aviation industry is exposed to risk from climate change and the loss of nature. One of the main drivers of climate change impacts is a reduction in nature and the ecosystem services provided. The integration and development of nature-based solutions into our business plans provides an opportunity to address climate change impacts and nature loss simultaneously, by restoring and regenerating nature and increasing ecosystem services.

### COMMITMENT 3.1 RESEARCH OPTIMAL NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS AND INTEGRATE THEM INTO DESIGN STANDARDS FOR NEW CAPITAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Nature-based solutions are methods which work with nature to address societal challenges and deliver benefits for people and biodiversity. We will undertake research and integrate nature-based solutions into our design standards to reduce impacts. We will also look to use nature-based solutions in green spaces to provide benefits such relating to climate adaptation (such as increased flood resilience) and increased wellbeing to passengers and colleagues.



#### KEY ACTIONS

Working with stakeholders we will have researched, identified and integrated nature-based solutions into our design standards by 2026.

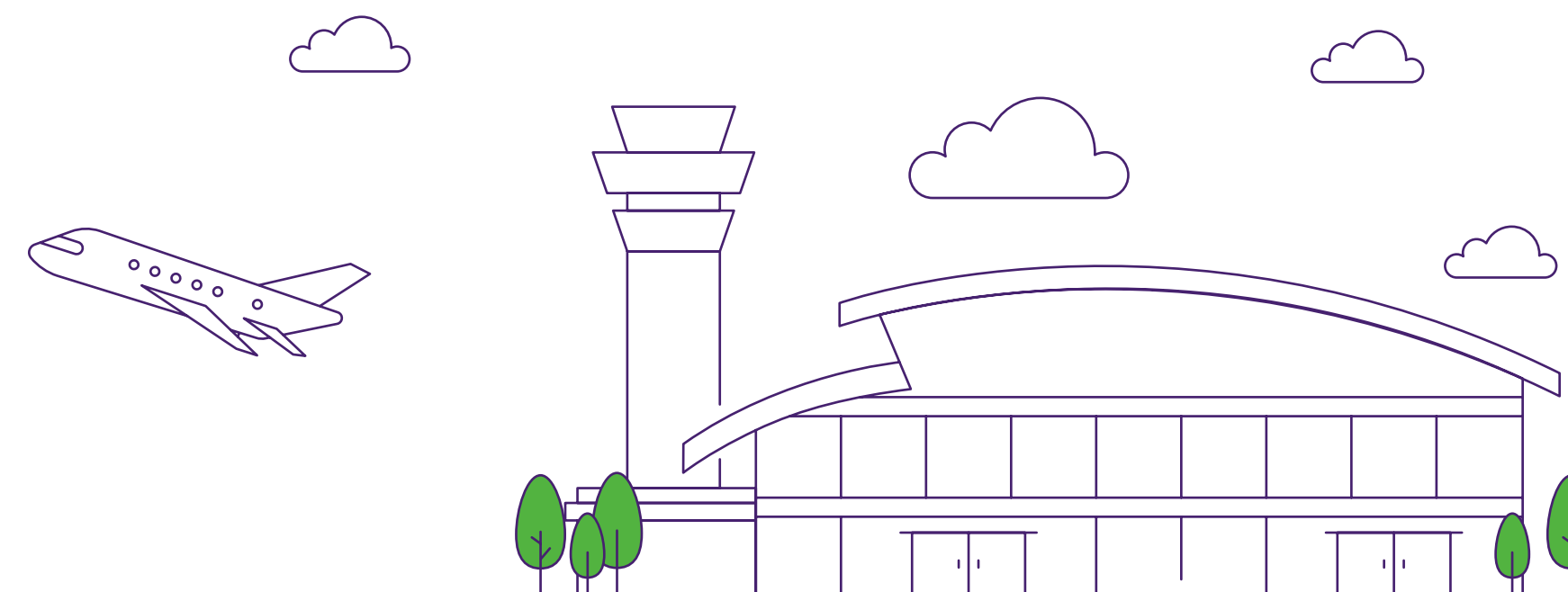
### COMMITMENT 3.2 UNDERTAKE A REVIEW OF EXISTING LANDSCAPING TO IDENTIFY AND INVEST IN NATURE-BASED OPPORTUNITIES

We have control and ownership of a large portfolio of land within the Heathrow airport footprint. Some of this land is green space which can be enhanced to ensure it is providing benefits to nature. Some of the land is developed land and hardstanding which has the potential to be enhanced for nature through landscaping initiatives.



#### KEY ACTIONS

We will review existing landscape management practices and areas to increase biodiversity or create nature-based solutions for implementation by 2030.





## GOALS AND COMMITMENTS – AROUND THE AIRPORT

**GOAL 4**

**IMPROVE THE CONDITION OF OUR EXISTING BIODIVERSITY AREAS**

We currently manage approximately 170 hectares of land across 13 sites for nature conservation purposes. These are referred to as our biodiversity sites and they represent a great opportunity to expand our positive impacts further, both for nature and our local communities.

**COMMITMENT 4.1** RETAIN THE WILDLIFE TRUSTS BIODIVERSITY BENCHMARK AWARD STANDARD

Heathrow has held the Wildlife Trusts' Biodiversity Benchmark Award for the management of our biodiversity sites since 2008. Achieving this award demonstrates that we manage these sites in a way which protects and enhances biodiversity. The Biodiversity Benchmark Award continually updates with new requirements to further biodiversity conservation, and we are committed to keeping up with these improvements.



**KEY ACTIONS**

Work with the Wildlife Trust to uphold the requirements of the Biodiversity Benchmark Award standard and deliver actions to address new requirements.

**COMMITMENT 4.2** ACHIEVE A MINIMUM 10% INCREASE IN LAND MANAGED FOR BIODIVERSITY

Increase landholdings managed under the Wildlife Trust Biodiversity Benchmark Award and continue to improve the condition of the biodiversity sites. To support this, we will incorporate ongoing management and monitoring into action plans to set out how these sites will be managed.



**KEY ACTIONS**

Bring new land under management and use the statutory Biodiversity Metric and the Natural England Condition Assessment to develop a biodiversity baseline for Heathrow's biodiversity sites by 2030.

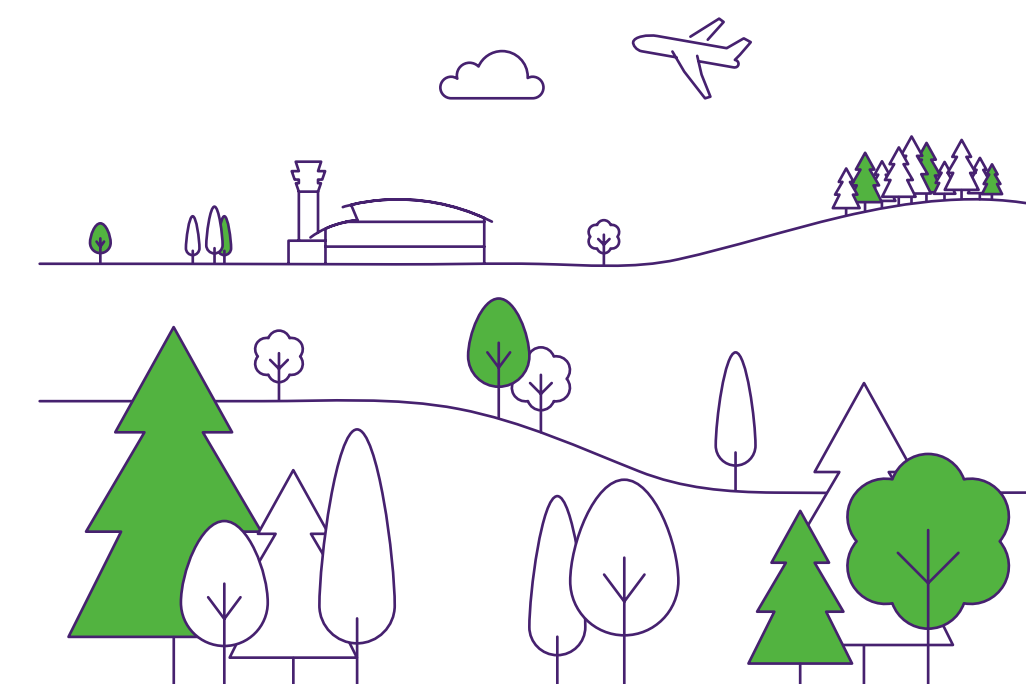
**COMMITMENT 4.3** FURTHER OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE ECOSYSTEM SERVICES PROVIDED BY OUR BIODIVERSITY AREAS

Natural capital is the world's stocks of natural assets which include geology, soil, air, water, and all living things. Ecosystem services are the benefits that natural capital assets provide people. We will conduct a natural capital baseline assessment of the biodiversity sites around Heathrow to understand the type of natural capital currently present within the biodiversity sites and the potential for increasing ecosystem service provision.



**KEY ACTIONS**

Conduct a Natural Capital Assessment using a recognised methodology to inform potential enhancements by 2030.





## GOALS AND COMMITMENTS – AROUND THE AIRPORT



# GOAL 5

### EXPAND NATURE NETWORKS TO SUPPORT LOCAL ECOLOGICAL RESILIENCE

Our influence on nature surrounding the airport can extend beyond the biodiversity sites by working with local stakeholders and partners and creating additional green networks through the wider landscape.

#### COMMITMENT 5.1 DEVELOP A ROBUST NATURE NETWORK PLAN TO ENHANCE AND ESTABLISH CONNECTIVITY AND RESILIENCE

One way to reduce our impact on nature is by increasing the resilience of the nature present within and around Heathrow. Increased resilience means that nature will have the ability to adapt and maintain its functions if disturbed. We will identify optimal areas for habitat creation and enhancement around the airport by developing a nature network plan.



#### KEY ACTIONS

Deliver a Nature Network Plan to determine the optimal locations for interventions to be delivered to enhance biodiversity, ecological connectivity, and climate resilience.

#### COMMITMENT 5.2 ESTABLISH STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS TO DELIVER THE NATURE NETWORK

Delivery of the nature network plan will require significant collaboration with local landowners and implementation partners to enable effective delivery of nature positive enhancements. Specialist technical professionals and land managers will be engaged to ensure that the measures proposed are delivered effectively ensuring long-lasting positive change.



#### KEY ACTIONS

Implement strategic partnerships to support the delivery of the nature network by 2030.

#### CASE STUDY

### CONNECTING WITH NATURE IN HILLINGDON

In 2023 Heathrow and British Airways jointly invested in the 'Connecting with Nature in Hillingdon' project supported by efforts from the London Wildlife Trust to help protect and enhance seven nature reserves and country parks in the Hillingdon area. The project also creates volunteering opportunities in the community to provide opportunities for the community to access and enjoy the green spaces in their local area.





## GOALS AND COMMITMENTS – AROUND THE AIRPORT

# GOAL 6

## PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENGAGEMENT WITH HEATHROW'S NATURE POSITIVE AMBITION WITH COLLEAGUES AND THE COMMUNITY

Improving people's connection with nature provides mental and physical wellbeing benefits. It can also provide benefits to nature by influencing environmentally friendly behaviours. This is because by feeling more connected with nature, people are more inclined to protect it. We believe that through engaging with our colleagues and communities on nature we can develop capacity to deliver enhancements for nature but also educate and inform others on the importance of protecting nature. We plan to build on progress already delivered through our Giving Back Programme to enhance engagement through volunteering efforts and provide opportunities to inform and educate others.

### COMMITMENT 6.1 USE COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERING EFFORTS TO DELIVER THE NATURE NETWORK

We will invite members of the local community and colleagues to join targeted activities which are directly linked to enhancing habitats on Heathrow's biodiversity sites and the nature network. We aim to harness benefits for the local community whilst also improving the biodiversity around Heathrow in the community.



#### KEY ACTIONS

Deliver a programme of practical conservation days which are linked to enhancing the condition of the Heathrow biodiversity sites and developing the nature network.

### COMMITMENT 6.2 DEVELOP APPROACH TO EDUCATION ENGAGEMENT ON SUSTAINABILITY AND NATURE POSITIVE INITIATIVES

We recognise that education and research are essential tools for understanding and reducing the impacts we have on nature. By understanding nature better through education and research we can determine what actions can deliver the most positive outcomes. Further, the ever-growing importance of sustainability in society and providing opportunities for the community and colleagues to learn and engage on these issues through our nature positive work, presents a significant opportunity to enhance nature beyond the airport.



#### KEY ACTIONS

Engage and educate the community and colleagues on sustainability and nature positive through education events and activities.

### COMMITMENT 6.3 SHARE ANNUAL RECORDED DATA WITHIN HEATHROW OWNED SITES WITH LOCAL RECORD CENTRES

We will continue supporting regional biodiversity recording efforts and wider scientific understanding by sharing our biodiversity survey programme data with local record centres.



#### KEY ACTIONS

Share annual biodiversity records with the Greenspace Information for Greater London (GIGL).





## GOALS AND COMMITMENTS – UK / GLOBAL

# GOAL 7

## IDENTIFY AND REDUCE IMPACTS IN THE VALUE CHAIN

Heathrow’s business activities extend beyond the operations of the airport and interacts with nature at a national and global level. Our journey to nature positive needs to consider how we influence indirect impacts on nature from our value chain. We will deliver efforts on nature positive action within our value chain to reduce impacts.

### COMMITMENT 7.1 IDENTIFY AND REDUCE NATURE IMPACTS IN THE VALUE CHAIN

We will work with organisations who provide goods and services to Heathrow to identify nature impacts. We will implement nature positive measures within our Balanced Scorecard to encourage our suppliers to identify and disclose their nature related impacts. Following identification of our supply chain impacts, we will engage constructively with suppliers on measures to reduce specific nature-related impacts to bring about positive change drawing on best practice initiatives.



#### KEY ACTIONS

Utilising procurement processes we will work with our suppliers and partners to identify impacts in the value chain.

### COMMITMENT 7.2 ENHANCE PROCUREMENT PROCESSES BY INCORPORATING NATURE POSITIVE REQUIREMENTS

We will review procurement processes to ensure that our suppliers and retailers are required to meet high standards for nature. Acknowledging that this will be a journey, we will bring our suppliers and retailers along with us, collaborating with these organisations to ratchet up commitments over the long-term.



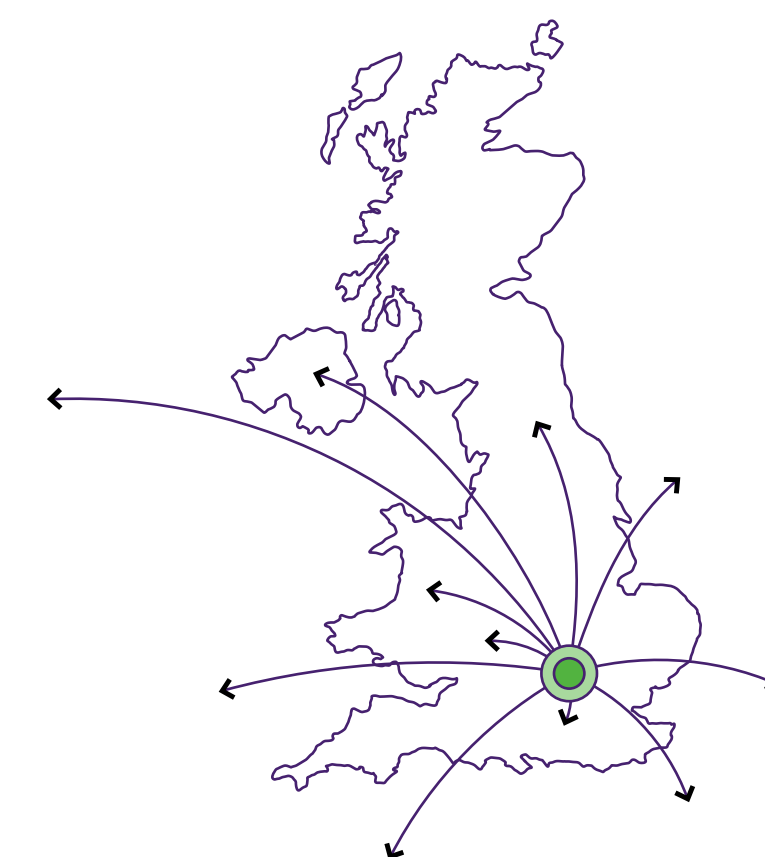
#### KEY ACTIONS

Review and update contracts with our suppliers and retailers to incorporate nature positive requirements.

### CASE STUDY

#### HEATHROW’S BALANCED SCORECARD

In 2022 we launched Heathrow’s Balanced Scorecard to communicate and collaborate on sustainability priorities with strategic partners. By engaging our partners in this way, we aim to bring the best of their expertise to bear at the airport and ensure we procure for value, rather than just cost. The Scorecard focuses on key elements of our Connecting People and Planet strategy, including Nature Positive, and will be periodically reviewed to ensure we continue to uphold leading standards in our supply chain.





## GOALS AND COMMITMENTS – UK / GLOBAL

# GOAL 8

## PLAY OUR PART IN TACKLING ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING

Wildlife trafficking is the illegal trade of protected specimens of wild animals and plants, either threatened with extinction or not threatened, but controlled to avoid utilisation incompatible with their survival and is related to some of the most important underlying causes of biodiversity loss. The travel and tourism industry has an important role to play. We recognise this and are committed to doing our part in reducing wildlife crime.

### COMMITMENT 8.1 RAISE AWARENESS OF ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING

We are committed to educating and raising awareness to customers to help inform the correct decision when travelling and subsequently reduce wildlife trafficking. Our colleagues at Heathrow are important in combating wildlife crime. We will run training for relevant colleagues on illegal wildlife trafficking and how to report concerns. Through awareness campaigns and training, we can equip passengers and colleagues with the correct information to help ensure wildlife trafficking is reduced.



#### KEY ACTIONS

Raise awareness and upskill colleagues on illegal wildlife trafficking.

### COMMITMENT 8.2 ENGAGE WITH STAKEHOLDERS AND ESTABLISH RELEVANT PARTNERSHIPS TO COMBAT THE ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE

Shutting down illegal wildlife trade requires an integrated, international approach and we need to work with partners to tackle this issue. We will work with external stakeholders to understand the products and routes of most concern travelling through Heathrow to plan future awareness campaigns and technology trials.



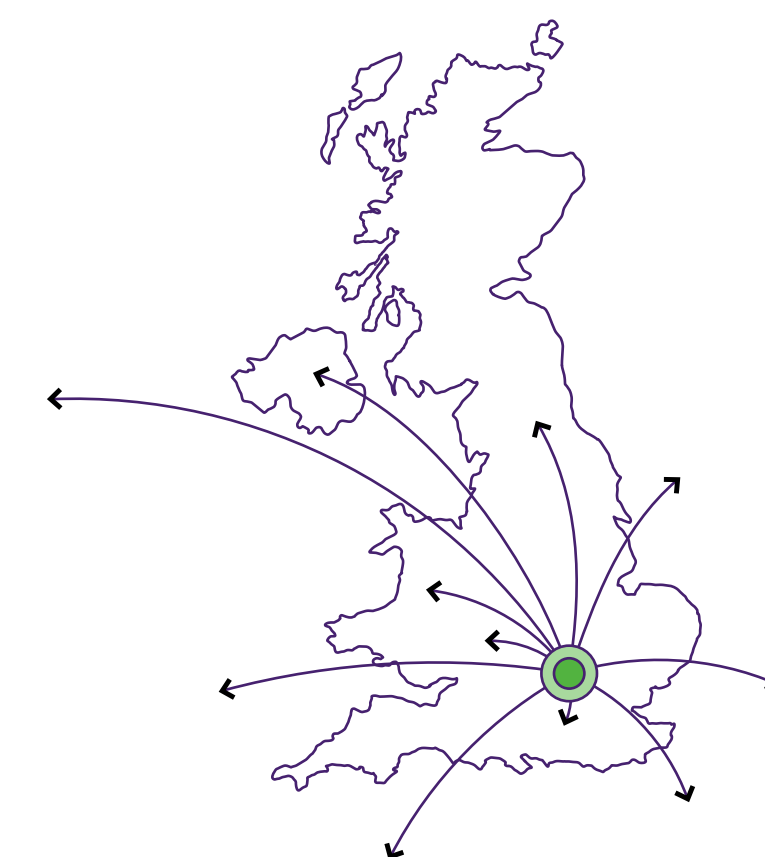
#### KEY ACTIONS

Establish a partnership to enhance solutions to combat illegal wildlife trafficking.

### CASE STUDY

#### PROJECT SEEKER

In 2021 Heathrow joined forces with Microsoft and Smiths Detection to test the world's first artificial intelligence (AI) model to fight illegal wildlife trafficking. The first trial of the algorithm at the airport revealed a detection rate of more than 70% in identifying trafficked animals hidden in baggage and air cargo.





## GOALS AND COMMITMENTS – UK / GLOBAL

# GOAL 9

## WORK COLLABORATIVELY WITH ORGANISATIONS TO REDUCE NEGATIVE IMPACTS AND INCREASE POSITIVE IMPACTS ON NATURE

Establishing and nurturing partnerships is essential for Heathrow to support a nature positive transition and key for nature positive actions being implemented across the wider aviation industry. We will work collaboratively with the aviation sector and other businesses to reduce nature-related impacts.

### COMMITMENT 9.1 EMBED BEST PRACTICE PRINCIPLES INTO ALL NATURE-BASED CARBON OFFSETTING INVESTMENT

We have a commitment to reduce our emissions significantly by 2030. Whilst much of this is proposed to be implemented through carbon reduction plans, nature-based offsetting involving the planting of woodland and restoration of peatland, also plays a part in reducing our carbon emissions. We are committed to addressing both the climate and nature crisis and to address our residual emissions we maintain a focus on high integrity offsetting aligned to the Core Carbon Principles, published by the Integrity Council for the Voluntary Carbon Market.



#### KEY ACTIONS

Monitor and update our approach to carbon offsetting investment considering nature positive.

### COMMITMENT 9.2 ENCOURAGE NATURE POSITIVE COLLABORATION AND KNOWLEDGE SHARE

Nature positive is underpinned by the need to meet the global goal to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030. We recognise that this cannot be achieved without collaboration and knowledge share from not only the travel and tourism industry, but all industries we operate with. We will commit to working with relevant organisations to deliver the global commitment to reverse nature loss.



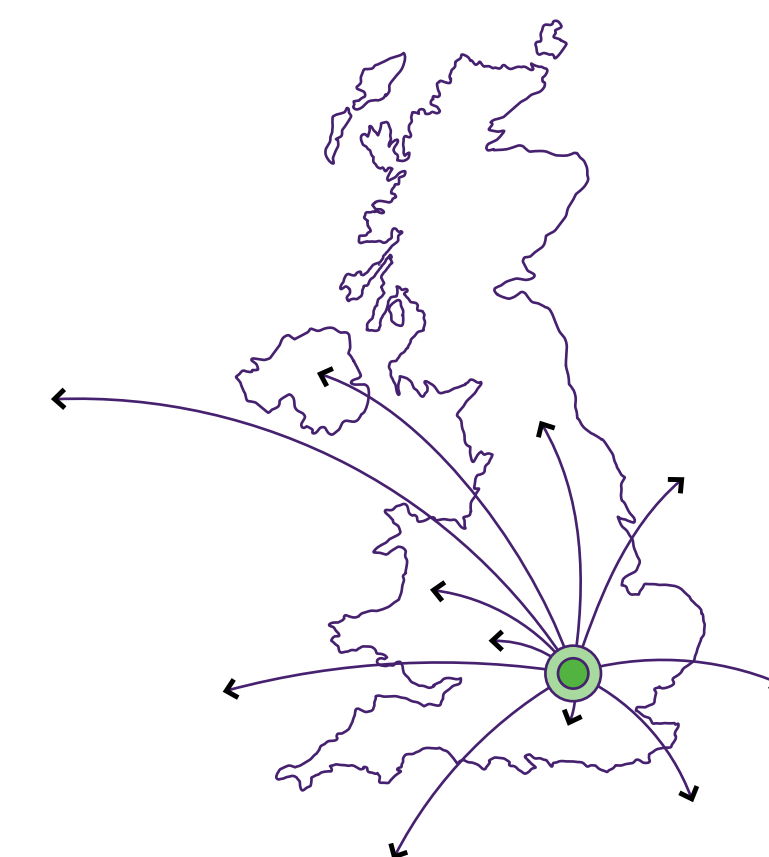
#### KEY ACTIONS

Collaborate with business and the aviation sector on embedding nature positive initiatives to reduce our collective impacts on nature.

### CASE STUDY

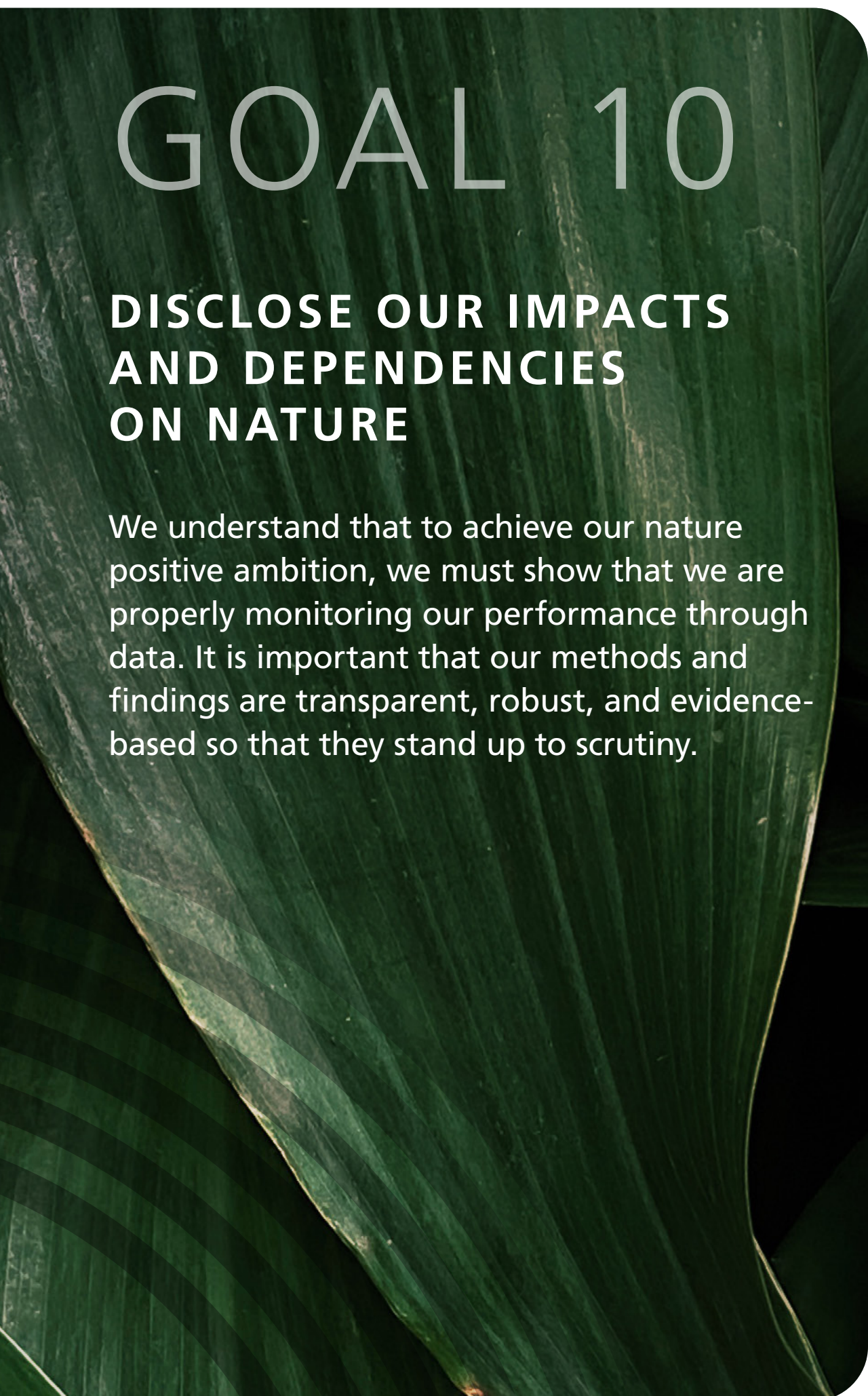
#### GET NATURE POSITIVE

In 2021 Heathrow became a founding signatory to Get Nature Positive, an initiative launched by the Council for Sustainable Business. The initiative showcases some of the ways businesses in various sectors can and are becoming more nature positive.





## GOALS AND COMMITMENTS – UK / GLOBAL



# GOAL 10

## DISCLOSE OUR IMPACTS AND DEPENDENCIES ON NATURE

We understand that to achieve our nature positive ambition, we must show that we are properly monitoring our performance through data. It is important that our methods and findings are transparent, robust, and evidence-based so that they stand up to scrutiny.

**COMMITMENT 10.1** SIGN UP TO THE TASKFORCE FOR NATURE-RELATED FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES (TNFD) AS AN EARLY ADOPTER AND COMPLETE A DISCLOSURE

The Taskforce for Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) is the best practice international framework for disclosing how a company is identifying, measuring, and addressing its nature-related dependencies, impacts, risks, and opportunities. We will follow TNFD best practice with the aim of publishing a TNFD disclosure by 2026.



**KEY ACTIONS**

By 2026 complete and publish a full TNFD for the latest full year of operations and include it in our annual report.

**COMMITMENT 10.2** ESTABLISH CONSISTENT METHODOLOGIES AND METRICS TO MEASURE IMPACT DRIVERS AND IMPACTS ON NATURE BY 2026

Having robust and consistent methodologies and metrics for our impact drivers, impacts on nature and dependencies is key to accurately measuring and disclosing our progress. We will establish these methodologies and lists of metrics, and ensure they remain up to date as new information and data become available.



**KEY ACTIONS**

By 2026 establish methodologies and metrics for measuring impact drivers and impacts on nature (i.e., measuring the state of nature) in our direct operations, and where possible, our value chain.





## GLOSSARY

**CO<sub>2</sub>e**

Carbon Dioxide equivalent

**ENCORE**

Exploring Natural Capital Opportunities, Risks and Exposure

**GBF**

Global Biodiversity Framework

**GDP**

Gross Domestic Product

**GHG**

Greenhouse Gas

**GIGL**

Greenspace Information for Greater London

**Connecting People and Planet**

Heathrow Sustainability Strategy

**IUCN**

International Union for Conservation of Nature

**LEAP**

Locate, Evaluate, Assess, and Prepare

**NGO**

Non-governmental Organisation

**SBTN**

Science Based Targets Network

**TNFD**

Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures

**UNEP**

United Nations Environment Programme

**WWF**

World Wildlife Fund



For more information visit our website:  
[heathrow.com/sustainability](https://heathrow.com/sustainability)



We welcome feedback on our plans and performance.  
Contact us here: [sustainability@heathrow.com](mailto:sustainability@heathrow.com)