



Recovering our natural world



Our biodiversity

Nearly half of Britain's biodiversity has gone since industrial revolution

Study shows UK has lost more biodiversity than any G7 country, and is in worst global 10%



[NEWS](#)

UK has 'led the world' in destroying the natural environment

By Josh Davis
First published 26 September 2020

newsround

Biodiversity: UK is one of the world's most nature-depleted countries

© 11 Oct 2021 Last updated at 08:11



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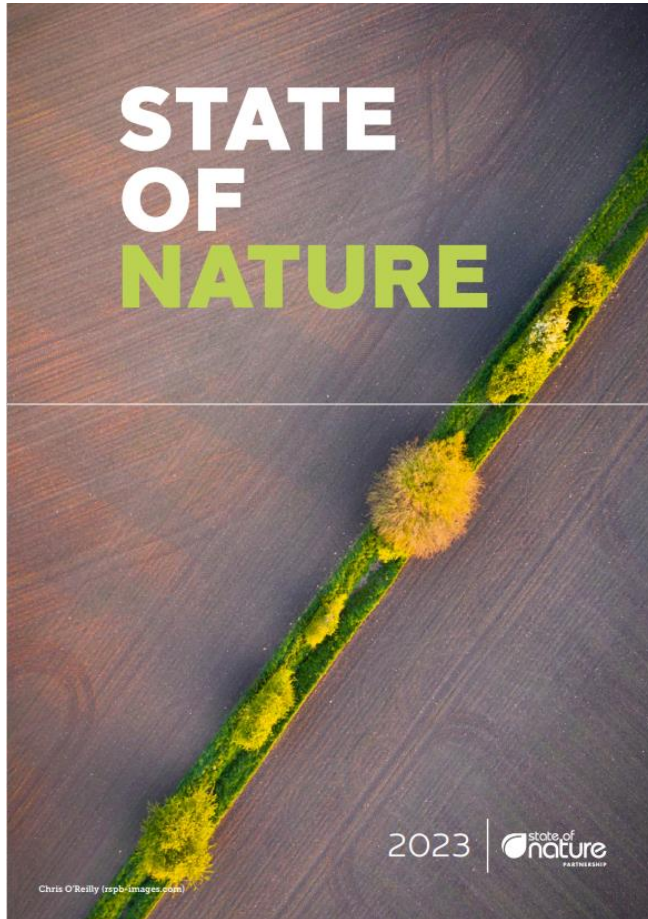
[Science & Environment](#)

Biodiversity loss risks 'ecological meltdown' - scientists

By Helen Briggs
BBC Environment correspondent

© 10 October 2021

The State of Nature Report 2023



The abundance of 753 terrestrial and freshwater species has on average fallen by 19% across the UK since 1970.




10,008 species were assessed using Red List criteria.



Since 1970, the distributions of 54% of flowering plant species and 59% of bryophytes (mosses and liverworts) have decreased across Great Britain.





 **Bugs Matter**

The number of insects sampled on vehicle number plates **decreased** by

↓78%

in the UK
between 2004 - 2023

Find out more at kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/bugs-matter

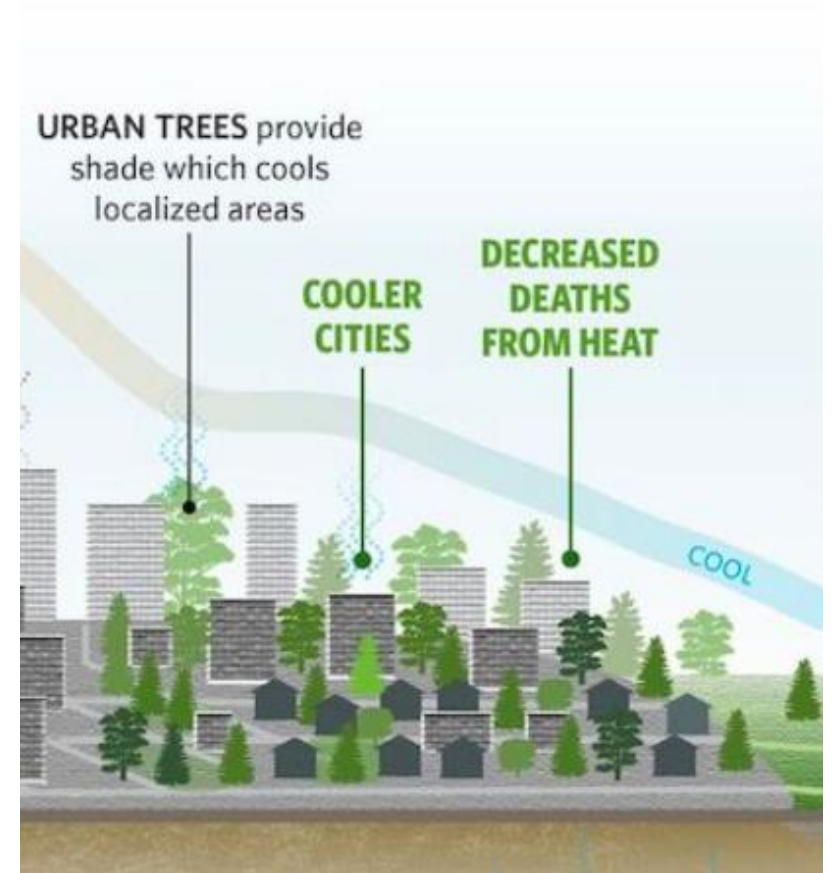
 Kent Wildlife Trust  Buglife

The State of the West Midlands



Our Trees

- UK tree cover is 13% (Target of 16.5%)
- WM Tree cover 14.4% and our trees :
 - store 1,912,000 tonnes of carbon worth £1.86 Bn
 - Remove 206 tonnes of air pollutants per year
 - Intercept 1,551,000 m³ of water run off
- **Total Benefits £73,446,000**



But not all equal



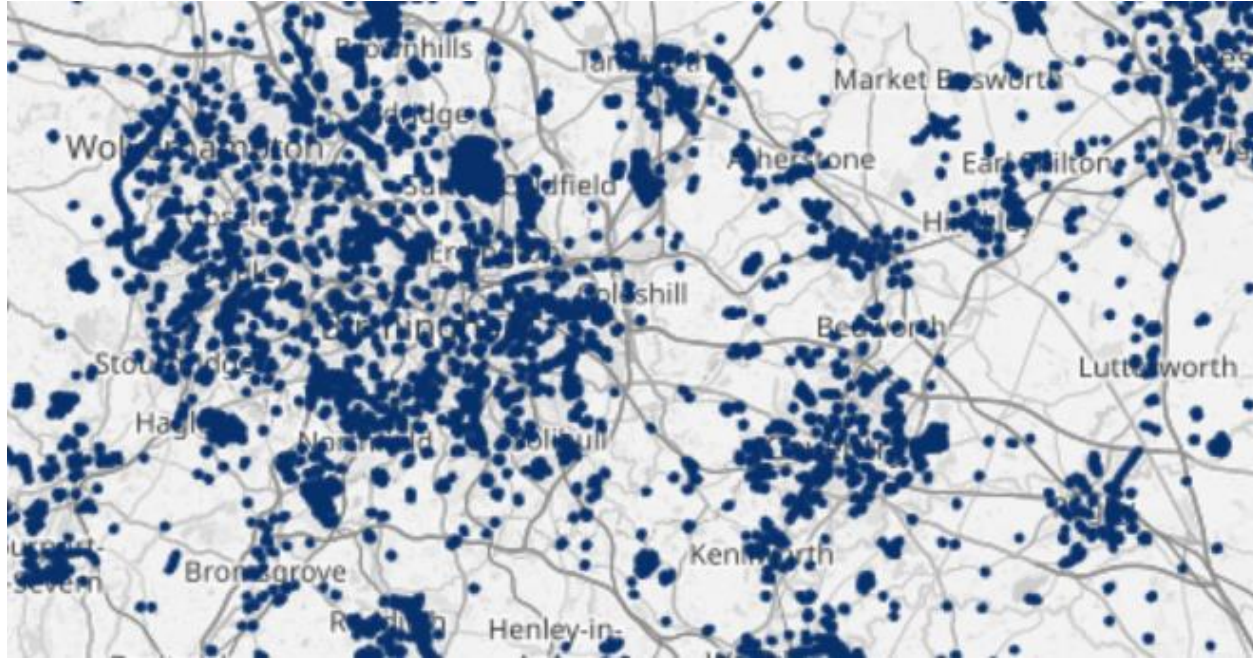
Lozells

1st Decile IMD (most deprived)
4% canopy cover
3.3°C warmer than city average

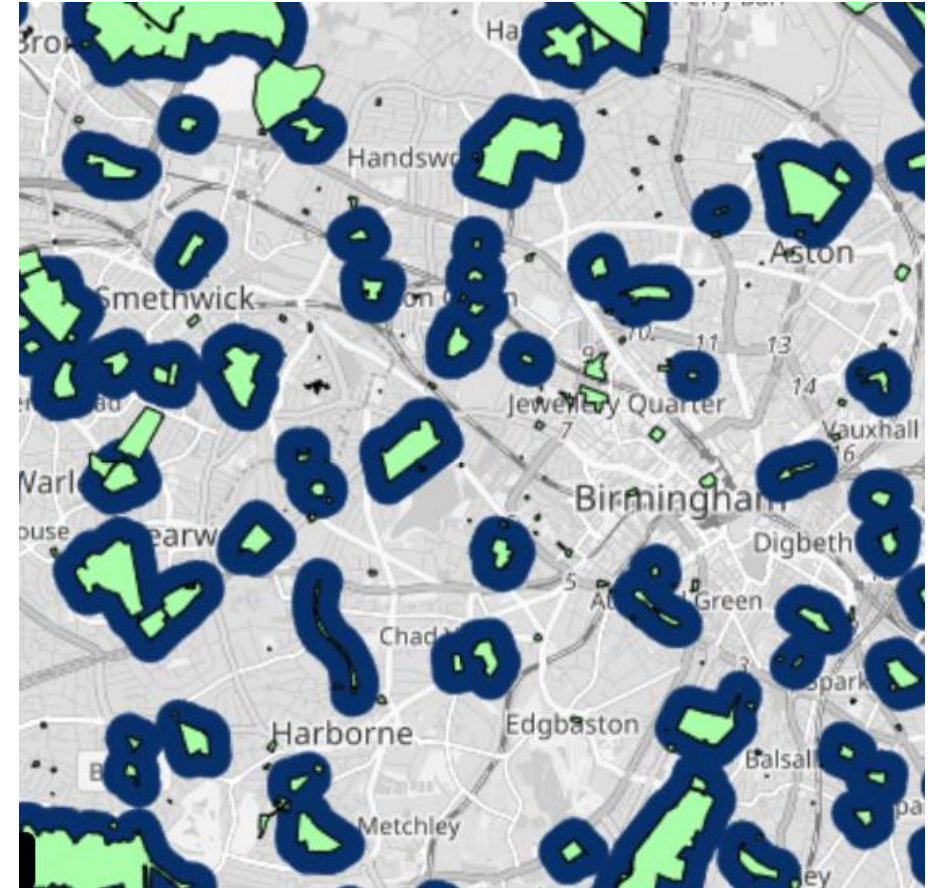
Edgbaston

10th Decile IMD (least deprived)
35% canopy cover
2°C cooler than city average

Accessible greenspace



Accessible space of 0.5ha within 15m walk



How do we achieve this – nature for people



Local Nature Recovery Strategies

- Recovering nature is big challenge that needs an ambitious plan
- The Local Nature Recovery Strategy is a national scheme across England to deliver these plans at a regional scale
- Bigger, better, more joined up



What goes in a Local Nature Recovery Strategy?

WHAT

are we going to do?

e.g. activities that:

- Create new habitats (woodland, grassland, wetland)
- Improve existing habitats
- Support or reintroduce species
- Make cities greener
- Make farming more sustainable



WHERE

are we going to do it?

e.g. places that:

- Reconnect fragmented habitats
- Buffer protected sites
- Extend habitat corridors (canals, railways)
- Reduce green injustice
- Mitigate environmental risks (flooding, heat stress, air quality)



WHO

is making it happen?

Everyone has a part to play, big and small

- Land managers (anyone from farmers, governments, community centres to your own garden or balcony)
- Policy makers (to set new standards)
- Investors, developers



Examples of priorities for nature recovery

Increase biodiversity in urban areas

Nature based solutions used to address flood risk, air quality and heat stress

Create and maintain sustainably functioning waterways

Roads and railways support habitat corridors and nature connectivity

Increase tree cover in the region

Improve people's connection to nature

Examples of potential measures to support priorities

Increase biodiversity in urban areas

Create new pocket parks

Increase local food growing opportunities

Use permeable paving for driveways

Manage gardens for wildlife

Plant more street trees

Reduce grass mowing in parks, verges and gardens

Improve people's connection to nature

Re-naturalise urban rivers and canals

Support green prescribing initiatives to get people outside

The challenge (and where the Citizens' panel comes in)

- We need a strategy that speaks to everyone, not just the nature experts
- The challenge is big: nature recovery is complex, underpinning everything that we do
- It means we need to find a lot of different ways of speaking to a lot of different people, and giving them a voice for nature
- The voices of the Citizen's panel form a part of that jigsaw, helping to shape our approach to the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

What questions can the panel help answer?

How will we talk about different aspects of nature recovery? What information do people need to be able to engage in nature recovery and climate adaptation?

How do people respond to different priorities and actions for nature recovery? What excites them and concerns them? What impact might this have on the priorities we set and the way we communicate them?

How can different nature recovery projects can be best implemented with different stakeholders in the West Midlands?

How can we support landowners and managers to navigate complex decisions and trade offs, particularly those that involve the public, to better support nature recovery on their land?

What activity will we use to answer these questions

Analysing scenarios to explore the benefits and trade-offs of urban nature recovery for climate adaptation

Analysing examples of potential priorities and actions for nature recovery, considering the roles of different stakeholders

Where the outputs will be used

LNRS public engagement plan:
Guides our approach to engaging the public on nature recovery throughout the strategy development

Task and finish groups
Groups of experts will consider many factors, including panel feedback, when agreeing our priorities and measures for nature recovery

LNRS Landowner engagement plan:
Guides our approach to engaging with landowners to help them carry out nature recovery on their land