



# West Midlands Greener Together Forum

21<sup>st</sup> November 2023

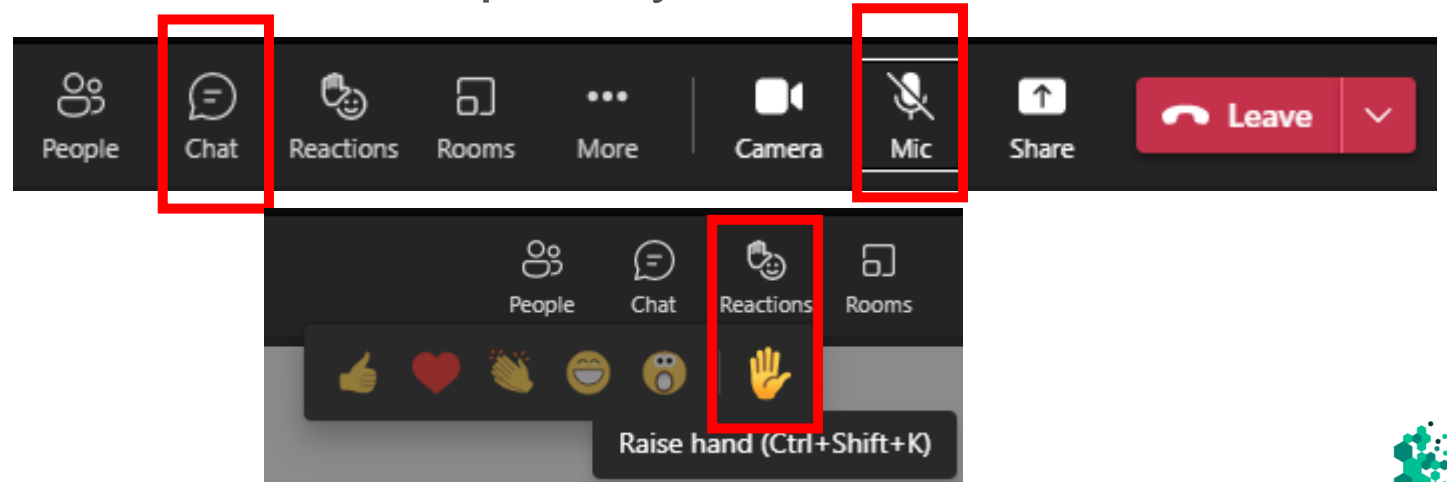


**West Midlands**  
Combined Authority



# Housekeeping

- If joining online, please stay on mute when in the main room
- Please respect all opinions and allow opportunity for all to speak when in the breakout rooms and to ask questions. We want to ensure all those joining online, and those in-person, feel part of the meeting
- To ask questions online, please write in the chat box or raise your hand to ask the question. If in person, please raise your hands
- No scheduled breaks but please feel free to step away when needed



# Agenda

- 18:00 - 18:05 - Welcome by Chair – Jackie Homan, Head of Environment, WMCA
- 18:05 - 18:20 - **Biodiversity and the Climate Crisis** - Mike Webb, Natural Capital Programme Manager, WMCA
- 18:20 - 18:30 – **The West Midlands Walking Trail** - Matthew Griffin, Environment Programme Support Officer, WMCA
- 18:30 - 18:40 - **The West Midlands Forest Partnership** - Jeff Grant, Forest Partnership Coordinator, WMCA
- 18:40 - 18:50 - **Community Environment Fund** - Tony Thapar, Community Environment Fund Manager, WMCA
- 18:50 - 19:00 - **Our Community Green Grant Project** - Olly Pickering, Castle Bromwich Gardens
- 19:00 - 19:20 - Breakout Room Discussions
- 19:20 - 19:45 - Plenary discussions (Mike the chair discussions and ask questions to speakers)
- 19:45 - 20:00 - Community Updates and wrap up

# Greener Together Forums Purpose

## Purpose

- Bring together all those across the region who are committed to cutting carbon emissions and enhancing the natural environment to discuss, collaborate and debate different initiatives.
- Space for EVERYONE to update one another about their activities to achieve net zero.
- The Forum is a space to share ideas and views that people, campaign groups, organisations and businesses **can ALL take forward and we are ALL leaving the Forum with takeaway actions.**

## Advisory Board

- The Advisory Board help to shape the direction and logistics of the Forum.
- We thank David Evans (Birmingham City Council), Perminder Balu (City of Wolverhampton Council), Tahir Parvaz (Canal & River Trust), Kamran Shezad (BAHU Trust) and reps from the Climate Coalition for joining the board
- Advisory board to help with;
  - To help bring new voices to the Forum
  - Ensure the Forum remains action focused
  - Support with improving the Forum for all
  - To **contribute to the agenda setting** for each meeting



# WMCA Greener Together Forum

## Our Natural Capital work

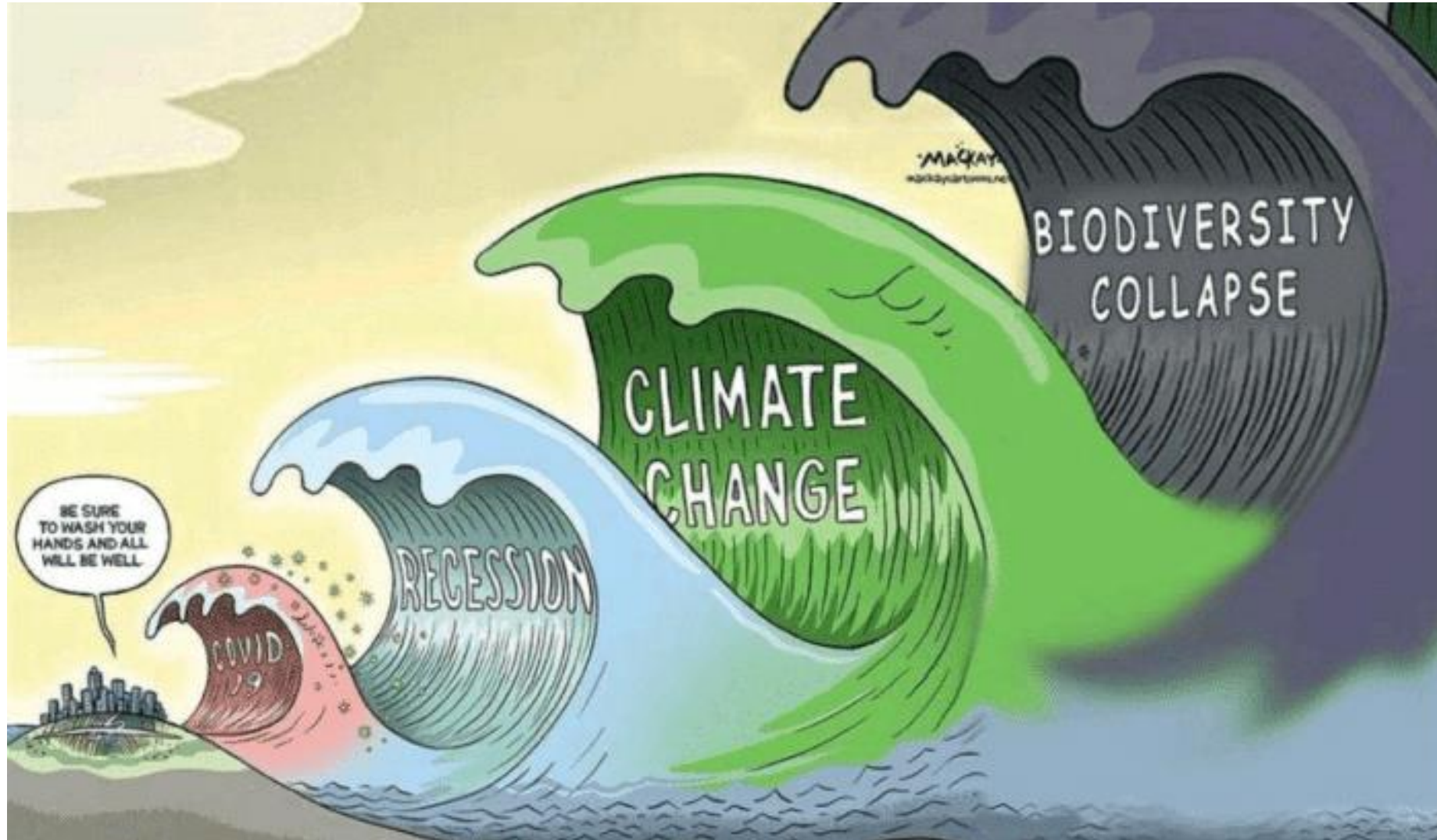
Mike Webb  
Natural Capital Programme Manager  
November 2023



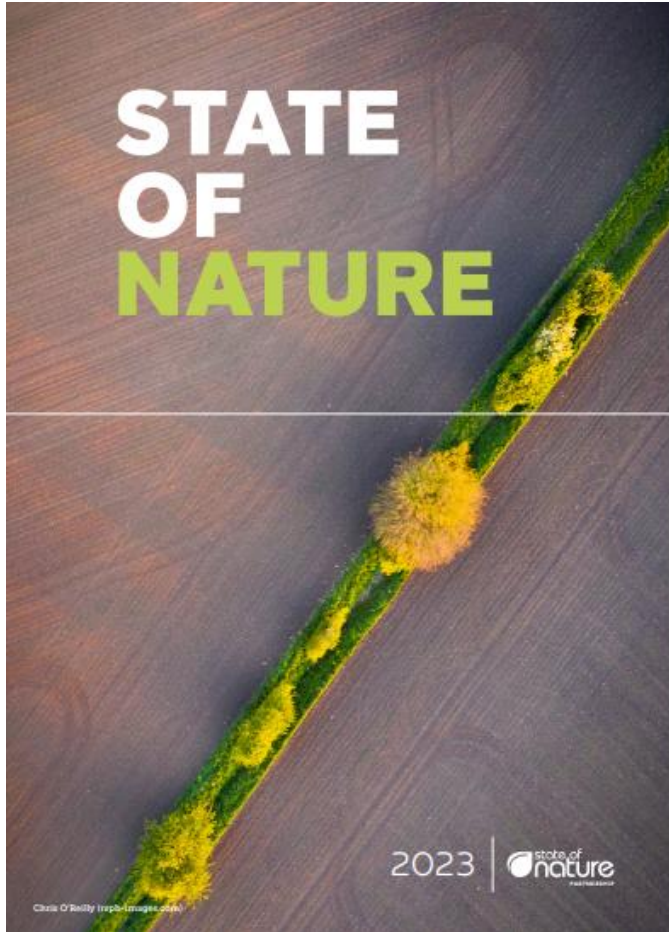
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# What we are facing



# Biodiversity Declines



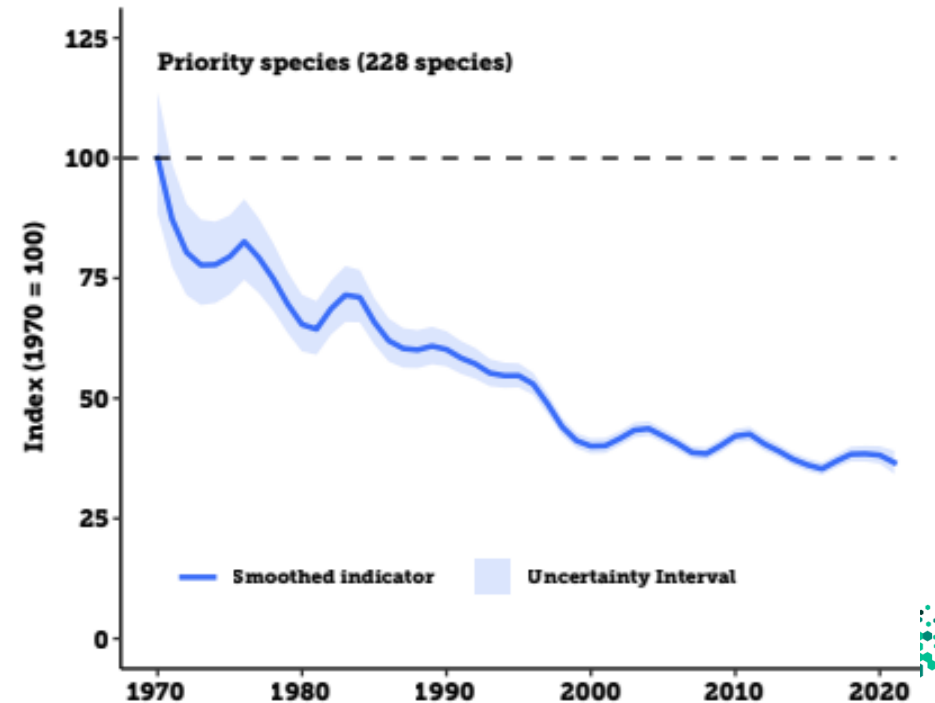
## Terrestrial and freshwater



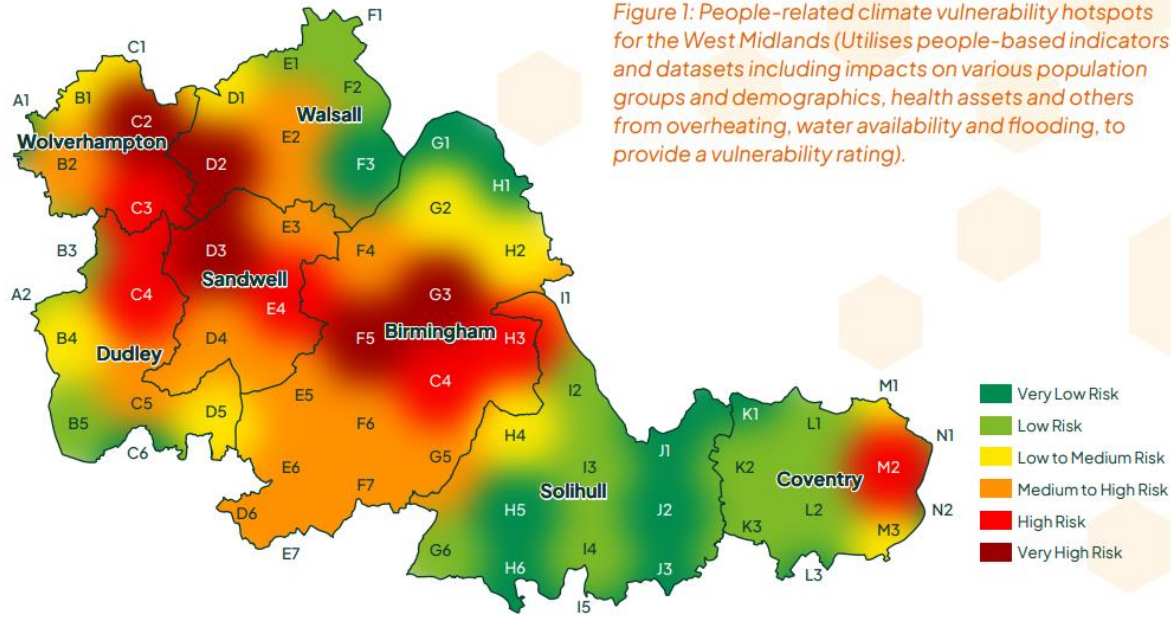
The abundance of 753 terrestrial and freshwater species has on average fallen by 19% across the UK since 1970.

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

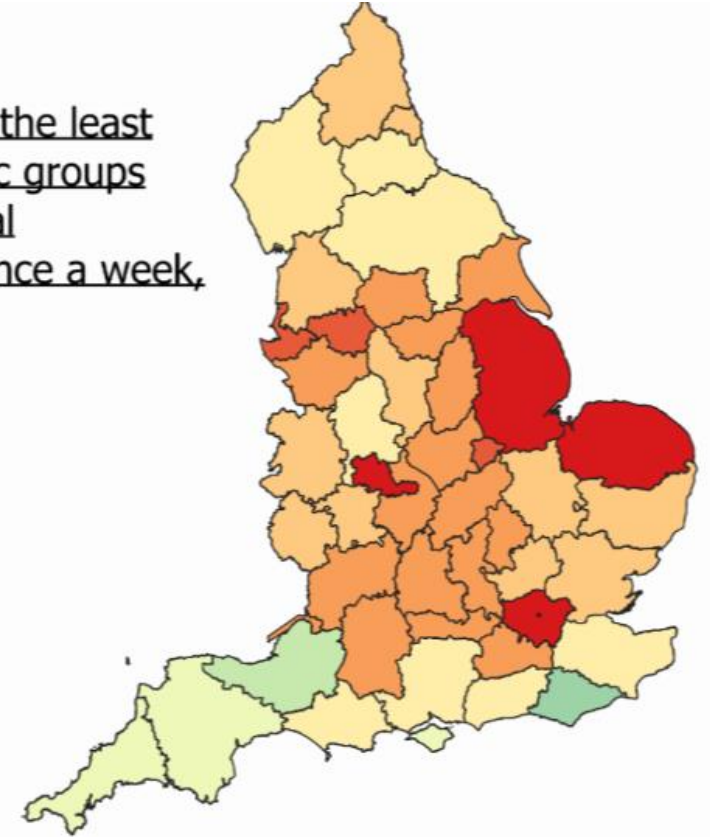
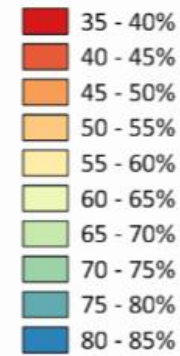
Study shows UK has lost more biodiversity than any G7 country, and is in worst global 10%



# Climate and People

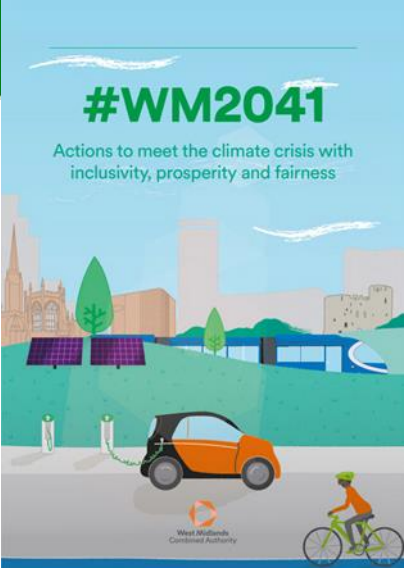


Proportion of adults in the least affluent socio-economic groups (DE) visiting the natural environment at least once a week, by English county.





# Some of our work to address this



- West Midlands Forest Partnership
- West Midlands Walking Trail
- Community Environment Fund
  
- Local Nature Recovery Strategy
- Local Investment in Natural Capital

# Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)

- A requirement of the Environment Act 2021
- 48 LNRS covering all of England
- Local Nature Recovery Strategies are a system of spatial strategies for nature and environmental improvement required by law under the Act. Each strategy must:
  - agree priorities for nature's recovery;
  - map the most valuable existing areas for nature; and
  - map specific proposals for creating or improving habitat for nature and wider environmental goals (adopting Nature Based Solutions).

# What to expect

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- Communication and engagement with key stakeholders and communities
  - Forming the evidence base
  - Shaping the priorities and the strategy
- Local Nature Partnerships becoming much more active
- Opportunities to join focussed task and finish groups

# Delivering our Ambitions – Local Investment in Natural Capital (LINC)

## Challenge

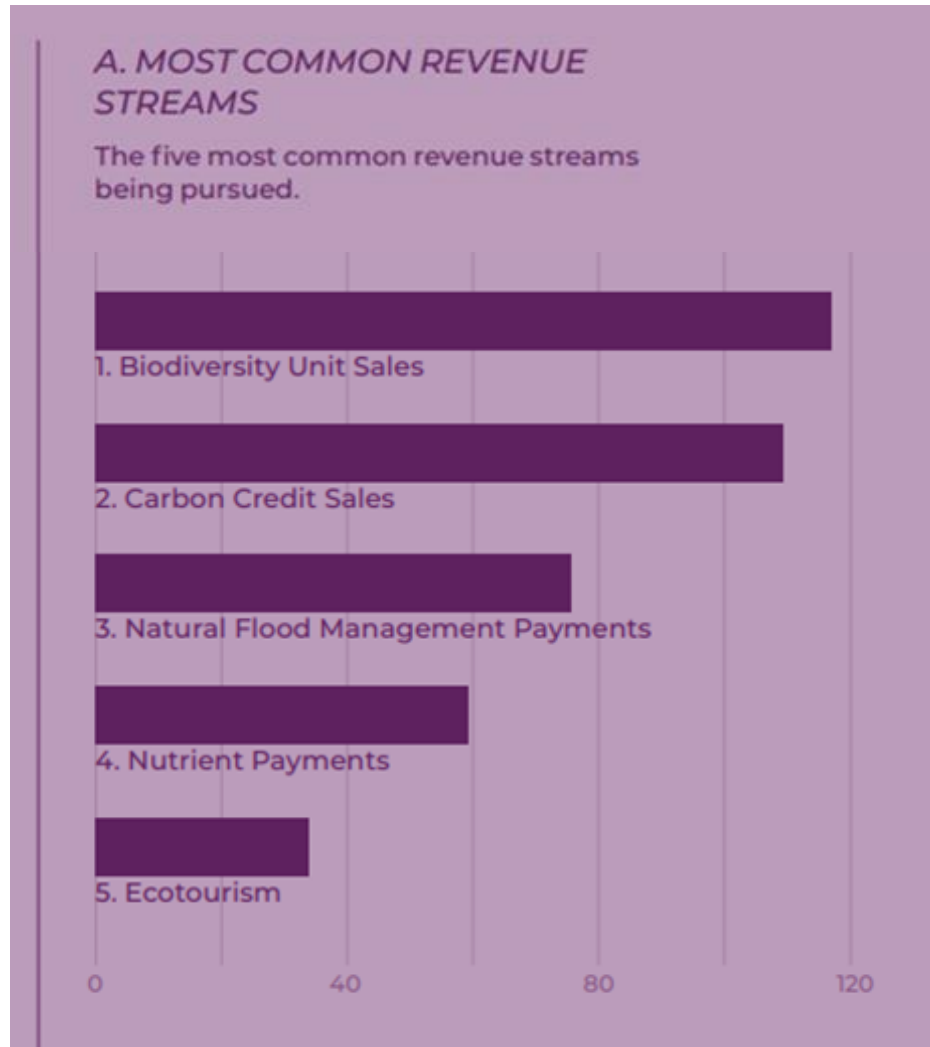
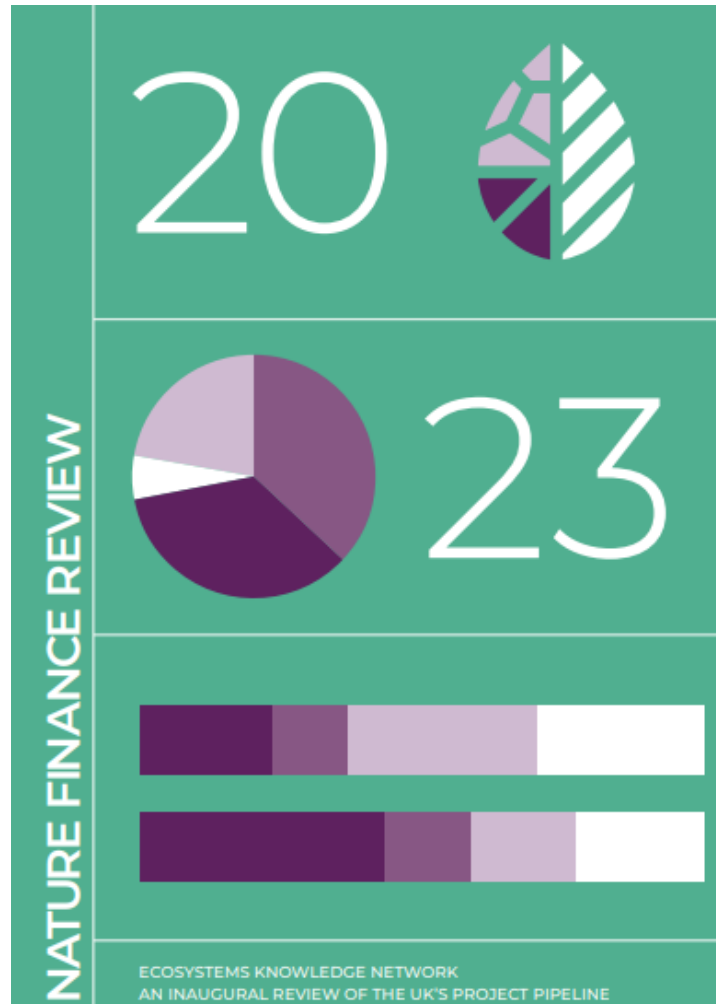
- Funding gap for UK nature over the next 10 years is £56 Bn
- The public purse is not bottomless!
- Government target of £1bn/yr private investment by 2030

## WMCA selected to run £1m DEFRA pilot project for LINC

- Build regional capability & capacity
- Secure private investment in voluntary/mandatory nature-based markets
- Build pipeline of investable projects
- Build a blended finance vehicle/fund with effective legal, governance & financial structure to receive private investment



# The UK Nature Market 2023



# Possible future 'Nature' markets for the WM



BIODIVERSITY CREDITS (VIA  
TFND) (REWILDING?)



CLIMATE  
IMPACT/ADAPTATION  
(COOLING/FLOODING)



HEALTH AND WELLBEING  
(ACCESSIBLE  
GREENSPACE/RESILIENT  
ENVIRONMENTS)

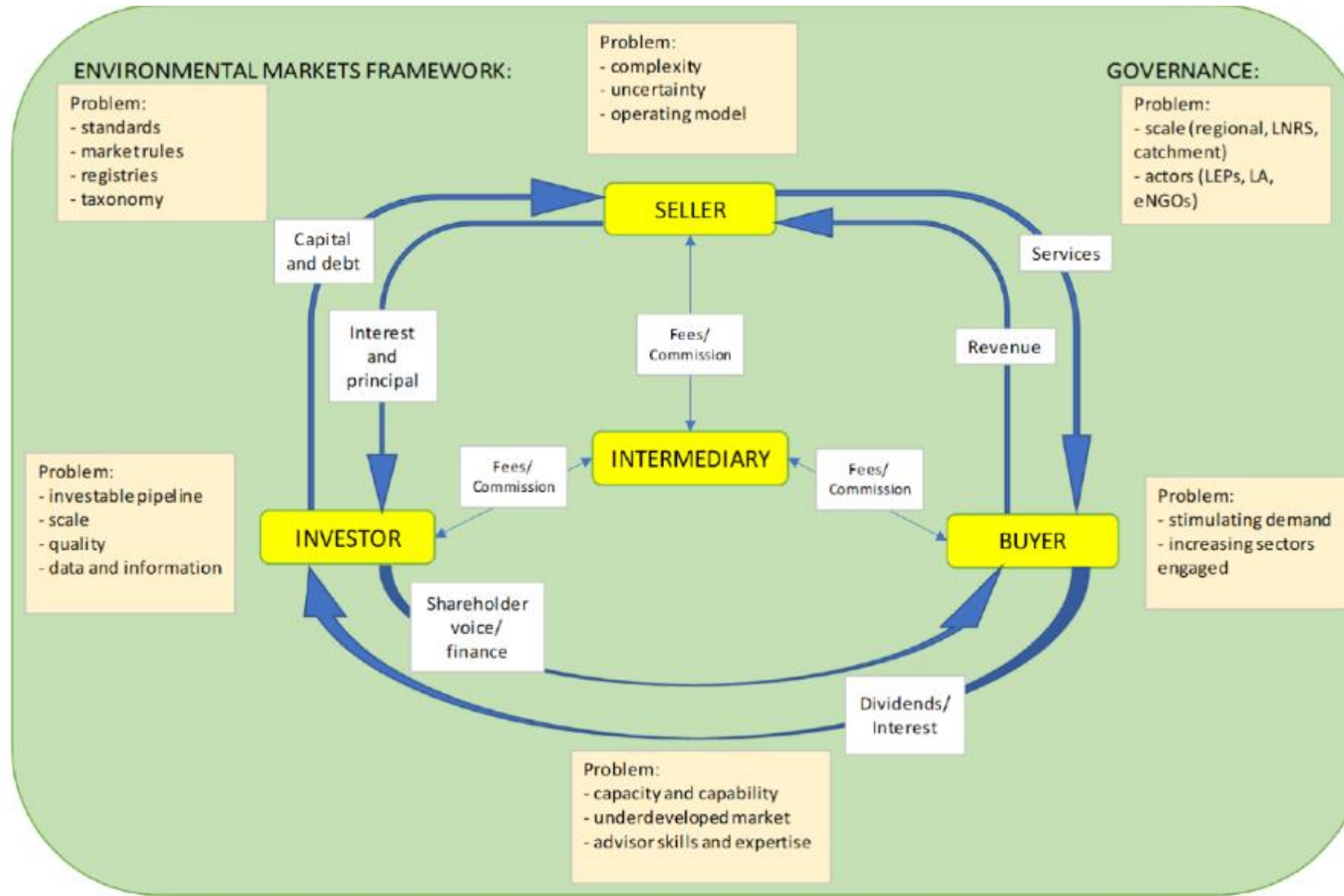


COST SAVINGS BY USING  
NATURE BASED SOLUTIONS  
(SUDS, ENERGY ETC)



ECONOMIC BENEFITS  
(COMMERCIAL TRADING  
FOR RETAIL AND  
HOSPITALITY)

# A complex picture



# Accessing nature – year 1 of Community Green Grant

## Year 1 approvals

- 11 small projects 2 large
- >2000 trees planted
- 2km of river corridor enhanced
- New/improved greenspace within 15m walk of >238k people
- Created useful resources for community action

## Year 2 yet to be reported

- 9 more small projects , 1 more large
- More positive impacts to come
- Built upon to develop Community Environment Fund







# Greener Together Forum: West Midlands Walking Trail

Matthew Griffin

November 2023

# Context

- Andy Street manifesto [pledge](#)
- Inclusion in WMCA Natural Environment [Plan](#):



- Aim- work with partners to create a new national trail in the WM
- Y1 focus- to identify the process for establishing a new national trail and convening the relevant stakeholder group
- Success by 2026- have identified a potential route, bearing in mind rights of access and landowner permissions. Initial sections mapped.

# Manifesto:

The exploring the creation of a new large-scale walking trail, the Mercian Trail, forming a loop following the Green Belt around the urban West Midlands.

We are also developing a series of urban loops- one per local authority in the WMCA.



# High Level Objectives:

- The trail should be of high quality in terms of its accessibility to a wide range of users, with a long-term governance structure in place to ensure that quality levels are maintained and, where possible, enhanced.
- The trail should be accessible by public transport.
- Both the outer loop and the urban loops should encourage greater access to green space for communities with lower green space access.
- Both the outer loop and the urban loops should connect and offer low-impact access to sites of historic, cultural and natural interest across the West Midlands.
- The trail should utilise existing paths rather than create new routes.
- The trail should be primarily a walking trail, but may include sections for other active travellers.
- The trail should be as inclusive as possible to ensure that a wider range of people are involved in heritage. This should include making the trail as accessible as possible.

# Greater Manchester Ringway Case Study:

A 300km route that is designed to be accessed by public transport, which 'will provide residents and visitors with a low-impact means of accessing and appreciating their environment'.



# Benefits:

- Wellbeing and health
- Tourism
- Addressing green deprivation
- Enhancing the natural environment
- Celebration of beauty and culture in the West Midlands
- Support for existing trails in the region



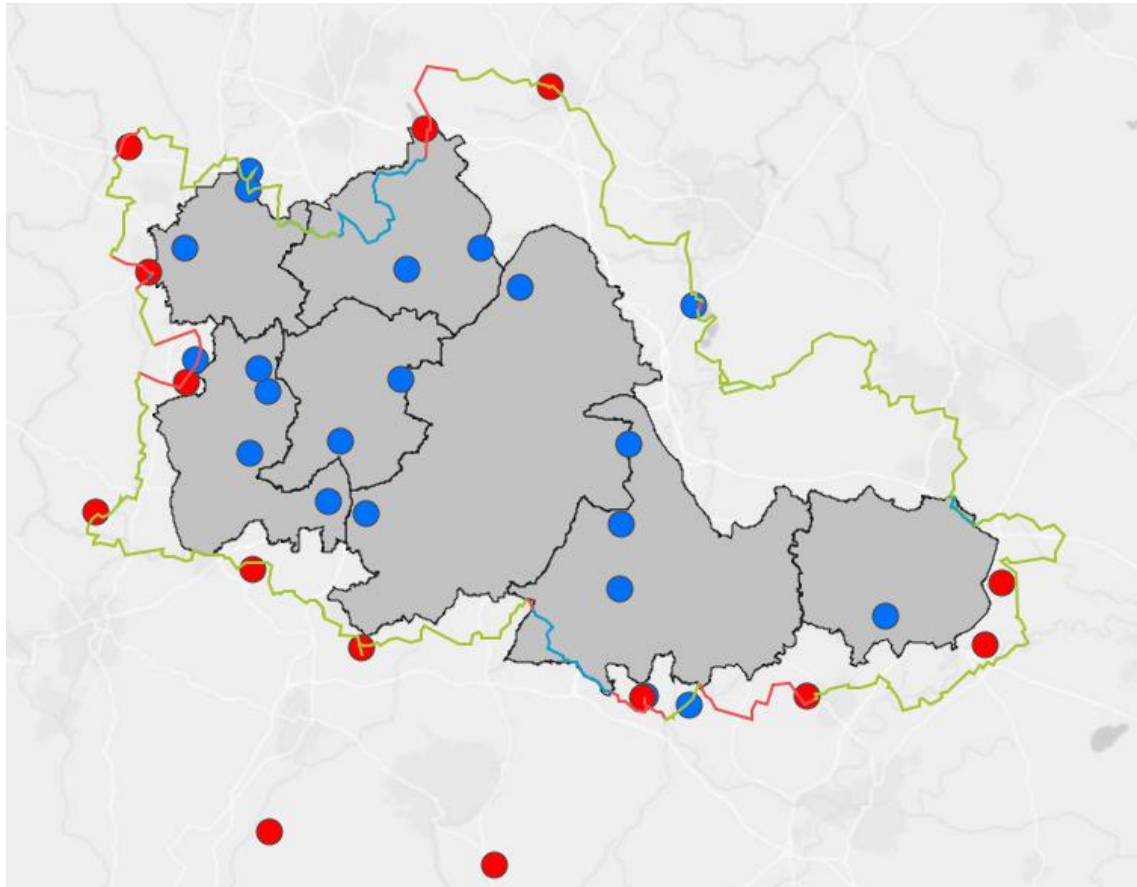
# Steps Taken:

- Stakeholder engagement
- Community engagement- survey and workshops
- Initial mapping of outer loop and of 7 urban loops
- Development of the business case
- Developing governance plans





# Initial Mapping



- Mapping of the route(s) is underway.
- Alongside a WMCA area wide loop, there will be an ‘urban’ loop in each local authority area.
- To develop the routes we are prioritising these elements:
  - Public transport integration
  - Use of existing trails
  - Green infrastructure
  - Heritage/cultural sites of interest

# The Business Case:

Currently working with a consultant to develop a business case for the trail.

The BC will provide (amongst other things):

- Costings for the trail
- Public transport integration plan
- Draft of outer and urban loops
- Compilation of material and guidance for a funding bid
- Long-term funding and maintenance guidance.

This report will ultimately lead to a bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund and potentially others. We are expecting to submit a bid prior to route finalisation.

# Walking Trail: High Level Next Steps

- 1. Business case finalisation-** the business case will provide the material and the basis of a funding bid. *Winter 2023.*
- 2. Governance-** the governance and control of the trail will be agreed. *Early 2024.*
- 3. Funding bid-** a funding bid will be made to the HLHF to provide staff and resources to develop and deliver the trail. *Early 2024.*



# Walking Trail: High Level Next Steps

4. **Local authority mapping workshops-** once funding has been secured a mapping workshop will be held with each local authority area (including some of our non-constituent authorities) to edit and finalise the outer and urban loops. *Tbc.*
5. **Convene working/governance group-** a working group will be convened and will help to finalise the route and support with further funding and implementation. *Tbc.*
6. **Final route(s) consultation-** collaboration with local walking groups and ramblers will result in successful checking of the route. *Tbc.*
7. **Launch of the WMWT-** the trail will be launched, alongside a website, branding and sign-posting. *Tbc.*

# What might the final trail include?

- Trails in the form of outer loop of the WMCA and 7 urban loops
- Official waymarking across all the routes
- Fully functioning website- with official branding
- Potentially a trail passport to support and encourage footfall to local businesses
- Potentially a specialised app or embedded in existing apps
- Community walking events

If you want to get in touch about the WMWT, email:  
[environment@wmca.org.uk](mailto:environment@wmca.org.uk) or  
[matthew.griffin@wmca.org.uk](mailto:matthew.griffin@wmca.org.uk)





**West Midlands**  
Combined Authority



# West Midlands Forest Partnership

## November 2023



West Midlands  
Combined Authority

WEST MIDLANDS  
Greener Together 

# WM Forest Partnership

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## West Midlands Forest Partnership

- Discussing tree planting across the region with private and public sector, sharing knowledge and resources including funding options.
- Identifying new opportunities for planting with business and landowners
- 7,000 whips for Local Authorities being facilitated by the Woodland Trust MOREWoods Scheme

## Tree Nursery Study

Assessing the need for local trees to be grown by local suppliers.

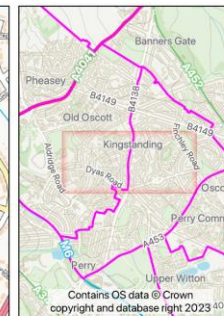
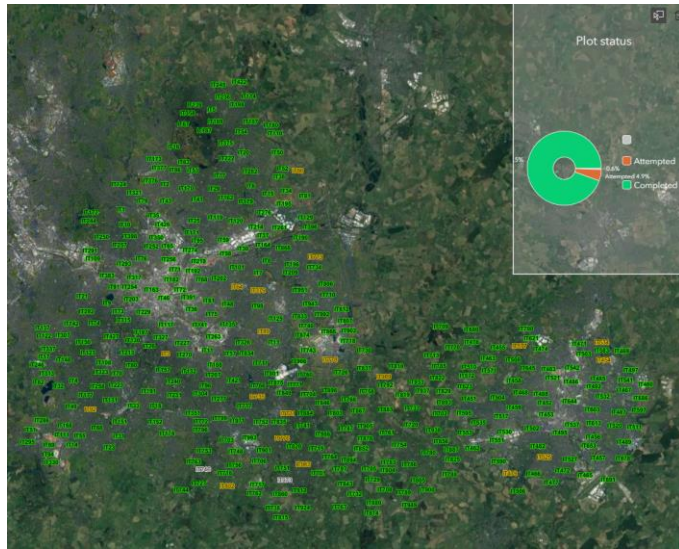
- The completed report identified the need and desire for a network of community tree nurseries across the region.
- This network could provide local supply of trees of the species and ages desired by local areas; and provide green jobs for local people.
- The next steps will focus on specific projects, exploring the business case, funding options and hiring the staff to deliver a project.
- Beyond that there will be a call for additional sites, and working with them to provide training and potential to expand. If you know of any colleagues or community groups that would be interested pass on my details.



# WM Forest Partnership

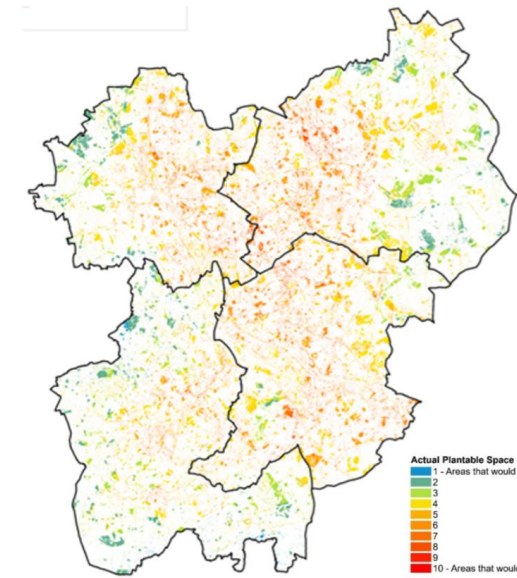
## i-Tree Eco Survey

- Reporting is expected early 2024. The study will identify the urban forest structure and the ecosystem services and economic value of the trees across Birmingham, Solihull and Coventry.
- Results will be used to target tree planting and aid management.



Ward: Kingstanding  
w3w: sudden.stands.giving  
Easting: 407895 Northing: 294168  
Nearest Postcode: B44 9TG  
Notes:



# WM Forest Partnership

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## Headline Results

|                      | Birmingham                        | Solihull                           | Coventry                             |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Total Trees (est.)   | 1.1 million                       | 1.2 million                        | 574,000                              |
| Tree cover           | 15%                               | 13.1%                              | 11.6%                                |
| Most common species  | Silver birch<br>Sycamore<br>Holly | Ash<br>Pedunculate oak<br>Hawthorn | Holly<br>Leyland cypress<br>Hawthorn |
| Replacement cost     | £858 million                      | £523 million                       | £472 million                         |
| Annual benefit value | £19 million                       | £14.3 million                      | £9.8 million                         |

# WM Forest Partnership

## Virtual Forest

- Tracks numbers of planted trees, now sitting at 586,000 after the 22-23 planting season.
- The website has been updated to include a section on funding, allowing people to find a funding source that works best for their project.
- Progress mapping includes charts easily showing the numbers and spread of trees planted.
- Guidance on how to plant and care for your trees.

## Tree Giveaways

- Funding available to community groups and community events from now to March 2024.
- Trees to be logged on the Virtual Forest.
- Targeting areas which lack trees as a priority, to involve those communities.

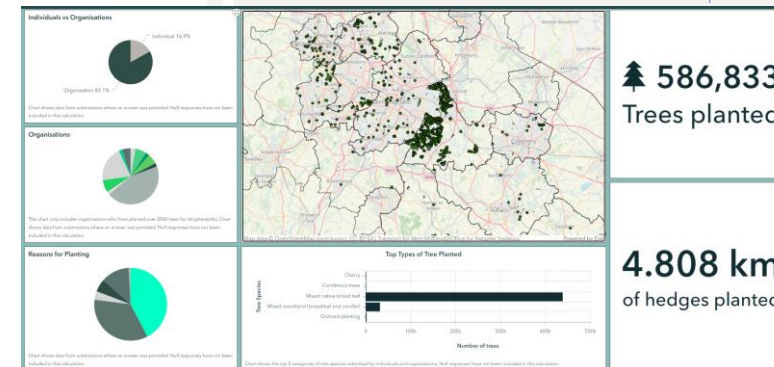
## Existing funding opportunities

Funding schemes are organised by minimum hectareage needed to apply.

> Less than 0.5 Hectares

▼ 0.5 to 1 Hectares

| Name                               | Value              | Details   |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|---|
| Woodland Management Planning Grant | £1,500             | <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/woodland-management-plan-grants-2023-countryside-stewardship/applicants-guide-woodland-management-plan-grant-2023">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/woodland-management-plan-grants-2023-countryside-stewardship/applicants-guide-woodland-management-plan-grant-2023</a> |
| Woodland Tree Health               | £2,750 per hectare | <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/woodland-tree-health-grants-2023-countryside-stewardship/applicants-guide-woodland-tree-health-grants-2023">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/woodland-tree-health-grants-2023-countryside-stewardship/applicants-guide-woodland-tree-health-grants-2023</a>               |
| Severn Trent Water                 | Various            | <a href="https://www.stwater.co.uk/legacy-forests/">https://www.stwater.co.uk/legacy-forests/</a>   |
| Planting Our Future Solihull       | Free trees         | <a href="https://www.lovesolihull.org/_files/ugd/bd82b9_b9ce3b8ae13449489b1da449ac32afb.pdf">https://www.lovesolihull.org/_files/ugd/bd82b9_b9ce3b8ae13449489b1da449ac32afb.pdf</a>   |



## Bring a tree giveaway to your community event!

In recent years we've given away trees at events in Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Coventry. The aim of the giveaways is to remove any barriers people may face in greening their own gardens/ community spaces, by providing whips which are right sized for smaller spaces. We gave Crab Apple, Rowan and Hazel whips to the public for them to take home and plant.

In tree planting season 2023-24 we are planning to have more trees to giveaway and are looking for events we can attend to handout the trees; or community groups wanting to plant whips. If you have a community event between October 2023 and March 2024 that you would like us to attend, please complete the [Tree Request](#) form.

# Thank you for listening

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If you know of land or groups open to tree planting, please get in touch

Jeff Grant - Forest Partnership Coordinator

[jeff.grant@wmca.org.uk](mailto:jeff.grant@wmca.org.uk)

*Or*

[wmvirtualforest@wmca.org.uk](mailto:wmvirtualforest@wmca.org.uk)



# WMCA Community Environment Fund



HM Government

Commonwealth Games  
Legacy Fund



West Midlands  
Combined Authority

WEST MIDLANDS  
Greener Together



heart of england  
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



# Introduction to Community Environment Fund

- Launched in October 2023
- £1m grant funding available to support communities in delivering initiatives that **improve the environment and people's lives**.
- 30 small grants of up to £25,000 and 5 large grants of up to £100,000 under the following project themes:
  - **Natural environment** - to protect, restore and enhance nature and wildlife.
  - **Access to green and blue space** - to provide better access to and community use of green and blue space for health and wellbeing – similar to the recent [Community Green Grants programme](#).
  - **Climate adaptation** - to make communities more resilient and prepared for the impacts of climate change
  - **Circular economy** - to reduce waste and keep resources and materials in use for as long as possible.
  - **Environment awareness** - to improve knowledge of environment issues and support behaviour change.
- CEF Team – Tony Thaper and Esther Devlin
- WMCA has appointed Heart of England Community Foundation (HoECF) to support with the delivery.



# People and communities impact

The Community Environment Fund is focused on delivering the WMCA's ambition to improve environmental outcomes across the region. But this must be hand-in-hand with people and communities. We expect all projects to also have people and communities related impacts, so please consider the following:

1. Who is your project aiming to engage with? Think about demographics - age / ethnicity / socioeconomic status / diversity.
2. How will your project support vulnerable people?
3. How many people will be engaged / supported through delivery of the project?
4. How many jobs will be created / supported through delivery of the project?
5. How many people will get new qualifications or skills as a result of project delivery?
6. How else will project delivery improve the lives of people impacts by the project? This could be a knowledge/skills, financial or health benefit.



# Natural environment aim: to protect, restore and enhance nature and wildlife.

## Why is this important?

The natural environment is important to protect and improve so that we are able to look after the wildlife that depends upon it.

Having high quality green space around us improves the quality of life, health and well-being for everyone across the region.



## Project examples

There are a wide range of natural environment projects that would be eligible for funding, that broadly fall into the following categories:

- Biodiversity enhancement projects in existing community spaces
- Habitat creation for pollinators, creation, restoration, enhancement and management
- Species focused projects at landscape scale
- Pond creation and river restoration



# Natural environment project examples

## Love Your River Stour: Cradley Heath and Lye

This project is a large-scale community focused river restoration, following on from successful “Love Your River Stour” project in Wolverhampton and Stourbridge [Love Your River Stour | Birmingham & Black Country Wildlife Trust \(bbcwildlife.org.uk\)](https://www.bbcwildlife.org.uk) (BBCWT)

BBCWT secured funding from WMCA’s Community Green Grants to extend this work into Lye and Cradley Heath. Working alongside local communities and with significant staff time they are transforming 3.5 hectares of ancient woodland and 2 kilometres of river. The project will improve the habitats and water quality and increase the number of local people accessing the 2 sites.



# Natural environment project examples



## **The Froglife Trust Coalface to Wildspace**

Froglife Trust is a national organisation that works to conserve the UK's amphibian and reptile species. They have secured funding from National Lottery Heritage Fund to embed community workers in Walsall and lead on increasing engagement with amphibian conservation.

WMCA's Community Green Grant also funded the wider work to pay for the restoration of two non-functioning ponds in Reedswood Park and two new ponds to increase the amphibian population in the area. There is also a programme of community work engaging with local schools and groups.

The overall aim is to create two wildlife corridors running from central to west Walsall. The area around the ponds will become an inviting accessible space for the public to engage with a neglected area of Reedswood Park.

**Aim:** to provide better access to and community use of green and blue space for health and wellbeing – similar to WMCA's recent Community Green Grants programme.

### **Why is this important?**

In the West Midlands we must protect, improve and expand the quality and availability of green and blue space. This is so that our communities can enjoy our green and blue spaces and experience the myriad of benefits, from improved physical and mental health and wellbeing, to community cohesion.

### **Project examples:**

There are a wide range of access to green and blue space projects that would be eligible for funding, including the following types of projects:

- Community gardens
- Pocket parks
- Community allotments
- Wellbeing projects (mental health support, therapeutic activities, social prescribing linked to green and blue space improvement)
- Green corridors



# Access to green and blue space project examples

## Kings Rise Academy Knowledge in Nature (KRAKEN)

The school were successful in securing funding for elements of the KRAKEN project (Kings Rise Academy Knowledge and Education in Nature) from WMCA .

The project opened a new green space to the residents of Kingstanding giving them the opportunity to connect with nature and reap the benefits of the great outdoors.

Community Green Grants funded the creation of a wildflower meadow and 2 weekly clubs (Little Bugs Club and The KRAKEN Gardeners Club) for new users.



**BEFORE**



**AFTER**

**The Kraken Garden**  
Kings Rise Academy



# Climate adaptation project examples

## People and community resilience

A project might be working with community groups and local people to understand how they are exposed to extreme weather events and helping them to plan ahead, take action and be ready for such weather events. This could include "what if" scenarios, the use of community centre cool hubs and how the most vulnerable could be supported in their community.

### SUNRISE Stoke

A multi-partner-led project led by Staffordshire Wildlife Trust is enhancing urban habitats and improving connectivity between green spaces areas to create a network of natural habitats that local residents and communities can enjoy. Activities at Pool Dam Marsh and the River Trent include invasive species control, measures to prevent seasonal drying out of the wetland, which will become more common under future temperatures, re-meandering of the river channel and rotational tree management through coppicing and thinning will improve light shade regime for the watercourse.

## Planting for the Future

The plants we grow now need to be able to cope with the changing climate and environment. To do this:

- Plant a diverse range of plants
- Select plants better suited to the changing environment
- Improve water capture and storage through water butts and sustainable drainage systems
- Reduce the expansion of invasive species.
- Plant perennials that aren't weeds, but like weeds, come back each year without much maintenance.

# Aim: to reduce waste and keep resources and materials in use for as long as possible.

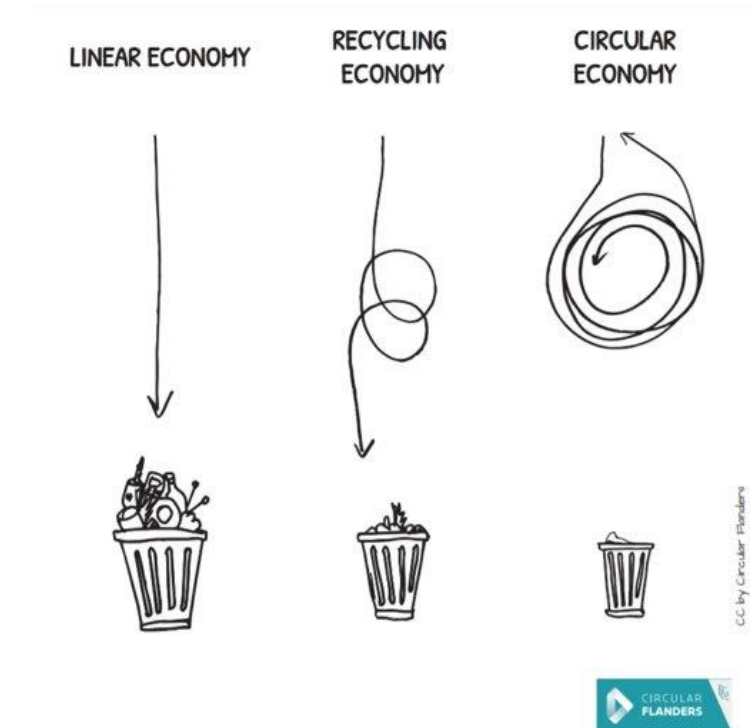
## Why is this important?

The circular economy considers what we do with items and materials, with a focus on repair and reuse rather than sending things to landfill.

Taking action at a community level makes sure that the economic, social, and environmental benefits of a more circular economy are felt by everyone.

Introducing more circularity into our communities provides a range of benefits:

- **Economic** – a more circular economy could generate business opportunities, and jobs
- **Environmental** – a more circular economy could help to reduce our carbon emissions by avoiding excess waste being produced
- **Social** – a more circular economy could reduce harmful air and water pollution, increase biodiversity, and create more cohesive communities. People can save money by keeping products in use for longer, providing more disposable income for other living costs.



# Circular economy project examples

## Encouraging sharing

There are some good examples of projects that encourage sharing of 'things' to reduce what is bought and thrown away.

- The **Borrow Shop** is a social enterprise space based in the Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham. Customers are able to borrow more expensive household items (e.g. drills) for a couple of days at a time.
- The Active Wellbeing Society, Birmingham operates a number of **Shareshacks**. These are libraries of things but also act as community meeting spaces and host free events and activities. These include repair and upcycling workshops and cooking/exercise classes.



Image from The Active Wellbeing Society



## Environment awareness aim: to improve knowledge of environment issues and support behaviour change.

### Why is this important?

Supporting people in enhancing their knowledge and understanding of environmental issues is an important first step in creating a better environment and improving lives.

It helps to encourage more sustainable behaviour by empowering people to make informed decisions and giving them motivation to act.

The solutions to environmental issues should involve people and communities so that they can have a say in how they are designed and delivered.

It is anticipated that environment awareness projects will be focused on the other themes of the Community Environment Fund covered within this guidance document.

### Project examples

There are many types of projects that support raising awareness of the environment, including:

- Awareness and education
- Opportunities to support new skills

# Environment awareness project examples

## Awareness and education

Supporting people in enhancing their knowledge and understanding of environmental issues is an important first step in creating a better environment.

There are some excellent examples in the West Midlands already of ways that we can provide people with knowledge on environmental issues in an engaging and inclusive way.

Some of these are making issues more accessible, whilst others are about direct engagement. Two examples include:

1. The Conservation Volunteers host weekly **Green Gym** sessions in South Birmingham, providing a 'work out' in the outdoors to encourage people and families to lead healthier lifestyles whilst gaining new skills in gardening and food growing.
2. **Witton Lakes Eco Hub** is a former park keeper's cottage transformed into a community facility. Nature inspired craft workshops will take place to give people the opportunity to create wildlife habitats and increase local access to green space.



# Community Environment Fund

Applicant Information Pack

Delivered as part of the Commonwealth Games Legacy Fund



# COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT FUND

Guidance for applicants

Delivered as part of the Commonwealth Games Legacy Fund



Visit [www.wmca.org.uk/communityenvironmentfund](http://www.wmca.org.uk/communityenvironmentfund)

Contact [communityenvironmentfund@wmca.org.uk](mailto:communityenvironmentfund@wmca.org.uk)





Castle Bromwich  
Historic Gardens

# Castle Bromwich Hall & Gardens Trust Oliver Pickering



Castle Bromwich  
Historic Gardens



## Castle Bromwich Hall and Gardens Trust

### Tiny Independent Trust:

- Owns and looks after 10acre Grade2\* early 18<sup>th</sup> century formal garden.

### Part of largest Conservation Area in Solihull Borough

- Former estate of the Earls of Bradford.
- Conservation Area includes Grade 1, Grade 2\* and Grade 2 buildings and landscapes all in different ownerships.
- Effectively in the top 10% of protected Parks and Gardens

### The Trust has no core funding, nor endowments.

- Operates as a heritage attraction to survive
- Lots of family, community, wildlife and cultural events (>100 pa)
- Feels a duty of care/stewardship to the whole site.



## 'The Parkland'

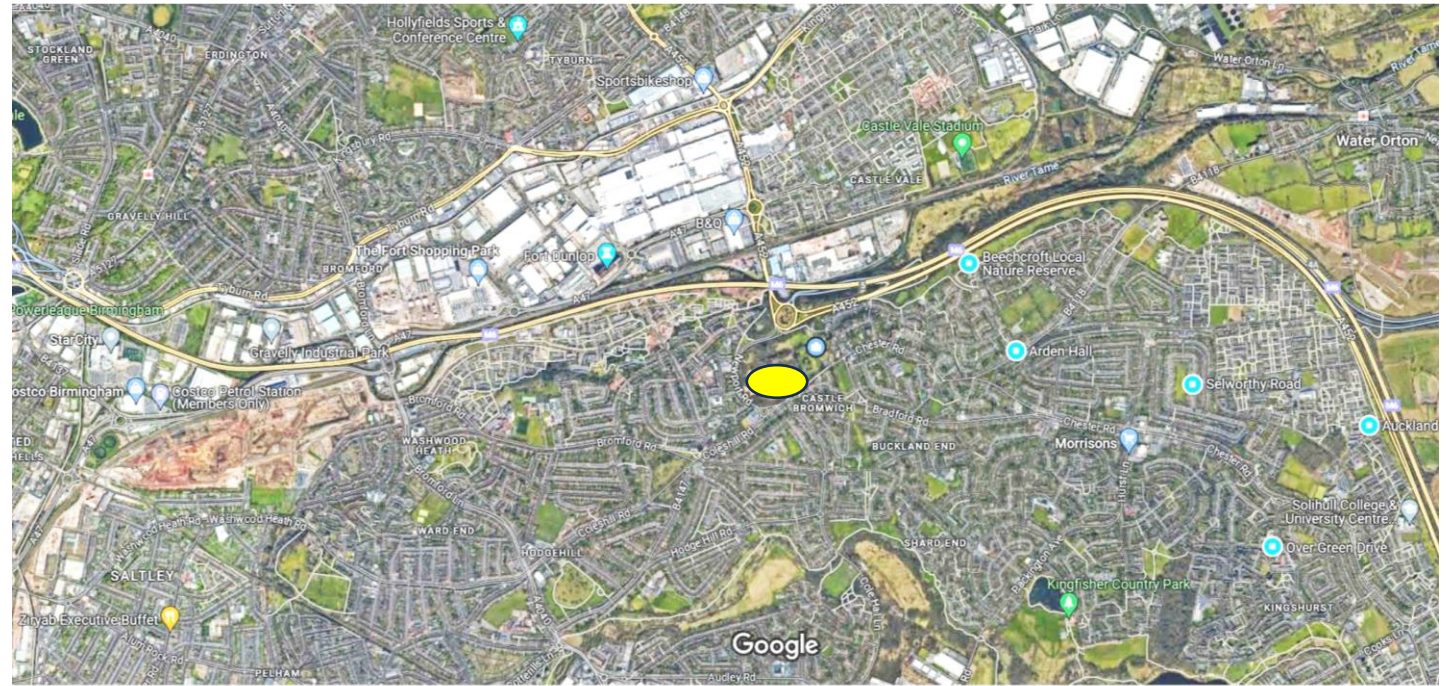
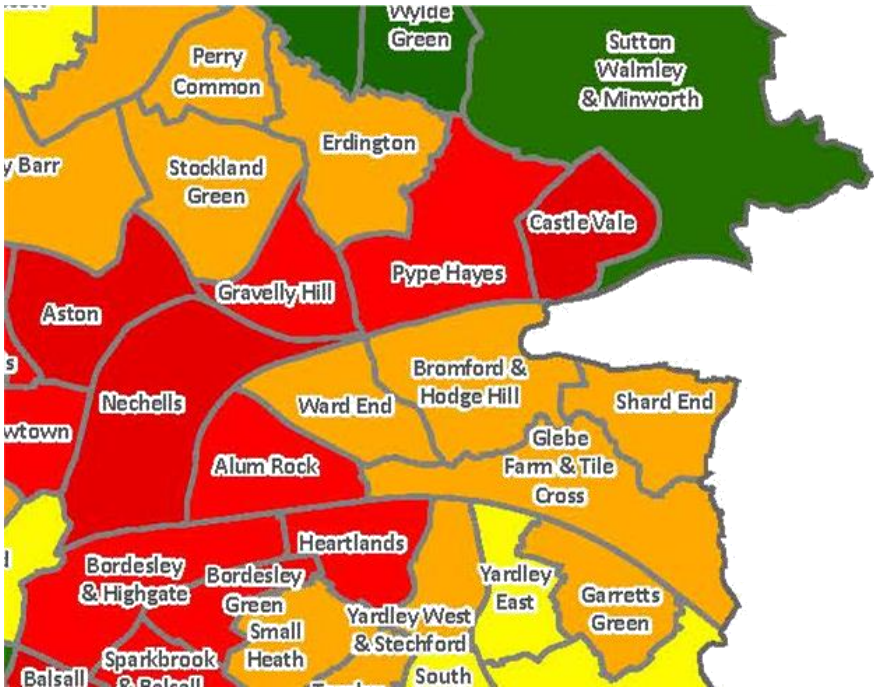
- 30 acres.
- Grade 2\* Parks and Gardens
- Local Nature Reserve

- Saved from development in 1980s by a public enquiry led by WM County Council
- Belongs to Birmingham City Council
- NOT in Parks portfolio but in Property.
- Benign neglect until 2020
- A 'no go area' for all but bravest locals



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**Pandemic partnership with wildlife trusts, councils, community groups and Defra funding.**

River Cole restoration projects

Since then Castle Brom Trust striving to continue funding to further manage and restore Parkland

**Environmental Map (BCC)** shows the need for massive Blue/Green therapy that our neighbours need ... as well as Nature....



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## Our Community Green Grant

### Three Main Aims

- Wetland habitat improvement .
- Acid grassland recovery.
- Community engagement and awareness.



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## Wetland Habitat Improvement

- At the bottom of the Parkland is Approx. 10 acres of Wetland, this area is part of a vital blue corridor in between the River Tame and the River Cole.
- We are in the process of reversing 30 years of neglect and succession by;
- Reinstating now dried up ponds and bog areas, replanting those areas with a mixture of native wildflowers and plants to increase biodiversity and managing a large area of self-seeded Willow trees to reduce their impact on the space.



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## Acid Grassland Recovery

- Acid Grassland is both locally and nationally rare.
- The second part of our project has been about the recovery and future protection of a small but important pocket of Grassland, again we are pushing back 30+ years of neglect.
- We are pushing back succession.
- Carrying out a topsoil scrape.
- Seed and plug planting



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## Community Engagement and Awareness

- Local Community Conservation days.
- Mixture of Adult and Family nature events and workshops
- Engagement campaign across Social Media to share information about local wildlife and nature connectedness.



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# 2024 Forums

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Please provide your feedback on the Forums you have attended since 2022, to help us shape the 2024 Forums.

*Your feedback is invaluable in helping to ensure these Forums are useful, action focused and inclusive.*

There will be 4 Forums in 2024 and we will be writing a forward plan, with the Advisory Board and from feedback we have from the survey.