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Sussex Nature Recovery

A collective blueprint for targeted action

Species priorities from the LNRS Public Survey

Based on 1,834 responses

SussexNatureRecovery.org.uk



Context and approach

To enable local people to contribute to the two **Local Nature Recovery Strategies** being developed for Sussex, a **public survey** canvassed their views and observations regarding environmental issues.

The public survey ran between February and June 2024. It collected **1,834** responses (57% from residents of West Sussex and 43% from residents of East Sussex and Brighton & Hove) to 17 intuitive questions that asked:

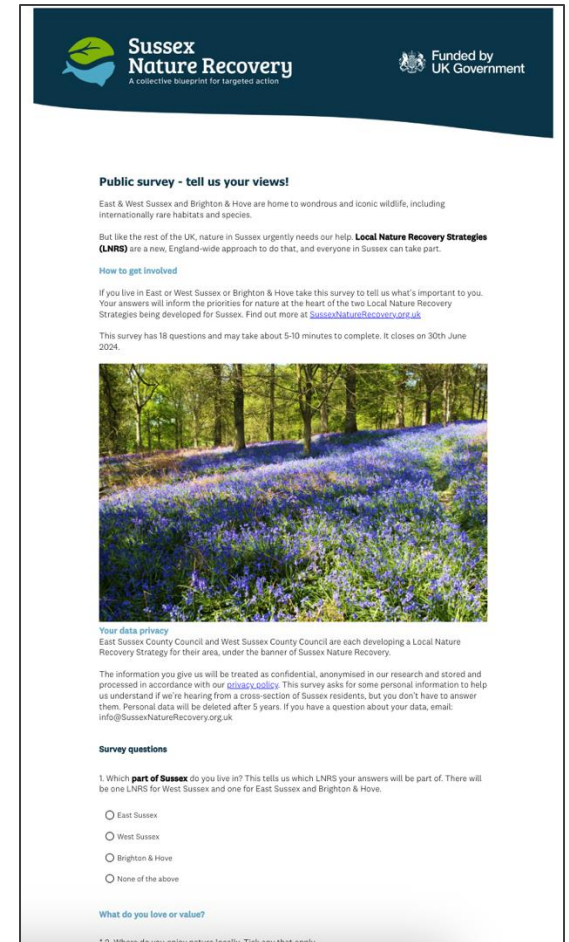
- **What they love** - their favourite places to connect with nature, the habitats and species they value.
- **What they've noticed** - whether they've observed any changes to local wildlife and wild places.
- **What they'd like to see** - which habitats and species they think are particularly at risk and want to see recovered, and which wider environmental benefits would they most like to see locally.

Combining qualitative and quantitative data

With some questions allowing for up to three free text answers, the survey garnered a significant volume of non-numerical data. This compliments quantitative answers and provides valuable insights into what local people have noticed, what they think and care about, and the strength of their feeling.

This report therefore combines quantitative (*numbers-based*) and qualitative (*non-numerical*) data in relation to the **species** that local people value and want to see recovered in Sussex. Qualitative data is taken from the comments provided by respondents that express their observations, suggestions and views. While most quotes are verbatim, some corrections to grammatical errors have been made.

A separate, companion report analyses survey responses related to **habitats** in Sussex and should be read in conjunction with this one, particularly where they concern the condition, extent and pressures on habitats as this affects the abundance and diversity of species in Sussex.



Key findings and themes

- Survey respondents value all types of **species** and seeing them or knowing they are in Sussex sparks positive emotions related to joy and awe. Respondents also appreciate the wider benefits species bring, with examples including pollination (by insects), natural flood management (by beavers) and pest control (by hedgehogs) etc.
- 67% of survey respondents have noticed a **decrease** in the amount of wildlife/species in Sussex.
- Respondents observed a decline in numbers of all types of species found in Sussex from large mammals to small invertebrates. The biggest noticed declines were for **birds, insects and hedgehogs**, and it is these that respondents are most concerned about and want to see recovered.
- Reasons cited for **species declines are strongly linked to the condition and extent of habitats**, with loss of habitat due to development and urbanisation cited frequently. Other pressures include climate change, more humans and dogs, diseases, and the use of non-nature friendly practices e.g, mowing verges at the wrong time, pesticide use etc.
- Some species are mentioned more frequently than others, both in terms of how much they are valued and how at risk they are. This is likely to be connected to how visible these species are in our daily lives (such as birds) and how generally aware we are that they are at risk (such as hedgehogs and bees). A 'beauty' or 'cute' factor is also likely to play with fewer mentions of species that don't traditionally fit this criteria such as snakes or spiders.
- 10% of responders have noticed an **increase** in the number of some species. These include deer, birds of prey such as kites and buzzards, and species often seen in urban environments such as foxes, pigeons and gulls.
- Reasons given for species increases include successful outcomes of reintroduction programmes and positive changes to land management practices, but also the loss of natural habitats that force wildlife into urban spaces.
- Some increases in species are not universally welcomed. For example, while some respondents rejoice at seeing more deer, others note their negative impact on woodlands and the need for their numbers to be managed.
- Respondents provided suggestions about how to mitigate or reverse the declines of species in Sussex. These include installing nesting boxes and hedgehog highways; creating habitats such as wildlife ponds; reducing pesticide use; protecting land from new developments; and creating/improving wildlife corridors.

97%

Of respondents are concerned or very concerned about the state of nature in Sussex

67%

Of respondents have noticed a decrease in the amount of Sussex wildlife/species

Birds, insects & hedgehogs

The species that Sussex survey respondents are most concerned about



Quant: 67% of respondents have noticed a decrease in species in Sussex

	West Sussex	East Sussex	Brighton & Hove
A decrease in the amount of wildlife/species	68%	67%	66%
An increase in the amount of wildlife/species	10%	10%	10%
Negative changes to habitats (e.g. damage, loss, pollution etc.)	72%	73%	74%
Positive changes to habitats (e.g. active management)	25%	23%	33%
Not aware of any changes	5%	6%	7%

Quant: 97% are concerned or very concerned about the current state or future of nature in Sussex.

	West Sussex	East Sussex	Brighton & Hove
Very concerned	67%	66%	69%
Somewhat concerned	30%	30%	28%
Not concerned	1%	1%	2%
Not sure/don't know	1%	1%	1%
No response	1%	1%	0%





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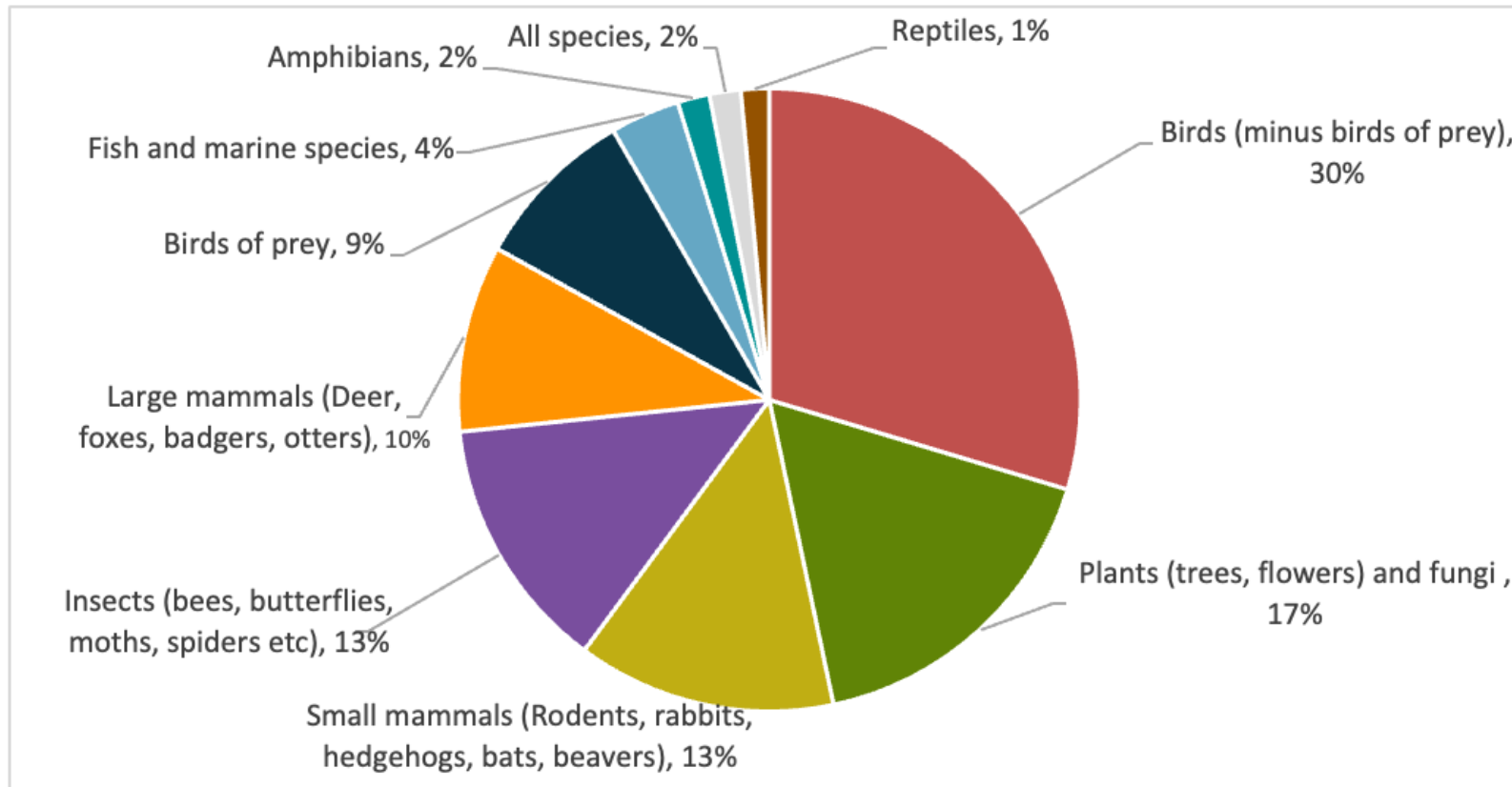
West Sussex responses

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WS Quant: Which groups of species do West Sussex survey respondents value the most?

Survey respondents provided over **2,500** responses to the question 'Are there any species of wildlife that you especially enjoy seeing or knowing that they're in your county?' These encompassed many types of taxonomic rank or name from individual species (e.g. 'Goldfinch') to informal groups (e.g. garden birds) and other generalist terms (e.g. 'birds'). Over 300 species types were provided in this way by West Sussex respondents. Here they have been grouped together to form 10 broad categories.



Notes: Respondents could provide up to three species in three separate text boxes. When analysing responses, only the first answer in each text box was taken.

WS Quant: Top 20 most valued bird species by West Sussex survey respondents




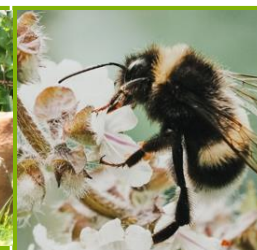






Rank	Bird species	# first answer mentions	Reason
1	Kites/Red kites	56	"Just magnificent"
2	Woodpecker/Green woodpeckers/Greater spotted woodpeckers	40	"Love their drumming"
3	Kingfishers	38	"Such a beautiful bird"
4	Owls/Barn owls/tawny owls	35	"Watching them in flight"
5	Skylarks	29	"On red list"
6	Robins	28	"Cheeky, cheer me up"
7	Buzzards/Honey buzzards	27	"Spectacular"
8	Swifts	26	"So exciting to watch"
9	Nightingales	25	"Beautiful song"
10	Storks/White Storks	23	"Rewinding story"
11	Sea eagles/White tailed eagles	19	"Recent addition to our skies"
12	Swans	18	"Grace and elegance"
13	Goldfinches and greenfinches	14	"Regular visitors"
14	Ducks	13	"Always entertaining"
15	Blackbirds	12	"I love their song"
16	Blue tits/Tits/long tailed tits	12	"Traditionally British"
17	Brent Geese & geese	11	"Come to West Sussex"
18	Hérons	11	"Graceful fishers"
19	Goshawk/Hawks/Sparrowhawks	10	"Noble to watch"
20	Gulls/Heron gulls/Seagulls	9	"Stamping for worms"

Birds were West Sussex respondents' favourite group of species. While 236 respondents simply answered with "birds", the table lists the 20 most popular individual species given, and one of the reasons they are a favourite.



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WS Quant: Top 10 most valued non-bird species by number of mentions, plus sample comments

									
Butterflies	Hedgehogs	Deer	Bees	Foxes	Bluebells	Bats	Orchids	Badgers	Seals
160	152	129	73	63	59	55	47	39	31
Rare now	So sad if they disappear	Sadly too often roadkill	Help everything	Beautiful to see	Spectacular display	Mesmerising	Many are threatened	An honour to see them	Fun and intriguing
Beautiful colour and patterns	Privileged to see them	Numbers seem to be up!	Biodiversity indicator	Resilient	Give me great joy	Unique and rare	Provide a pop of colour	Beautiful creatures	Remind me of my childhood
A special Sussex thing	Precious and rare	Always a lovely sight	Love to see them busy	Masters of urbanisation	Sign of spring	Keynote species	Intriguing flowers	So rare to catch a glimpse	Occasionally glimpsed

Some species only received one mention. These include some lesser known and rare examples. A flavour of these is below.

Birds	Insects	Plants	Mammals	Marine	Fungi
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bewick swans • Bunting • Crested Grebe • Firecrest • Snipe 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comma butterflies • Caddis Flies • Emperor moth, <i>Saturnia pavonia</i> • European Hornet • Grayling Butterfly • Hairstreak butterflies • Orange tip butterfly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Giant hogweed • Marsh Gentian • Tansy • Drosera rotundifolia • Marram Grass • Six-spotted tiger beetle • Harebells • Bird's-foot trefoil 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boar • Pine Marten 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cuttlefish • European Sea Bass • Lesser Spotted Catshark • Tench • Sea Slug • Starry smooth-hound shark 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Capitotricha bicolor</i> • <i>Cortinarius pratensis</i> • <i>Chlorencoelia versicolor</i>

Qual: What West Sussex respondents have noticed

Noticed a decrease in species (most mentions)

Birds (generally, individual species and types such farm birds, garden birds, hirundine etc).	330+ mentions	“Decrease in bird species in my garden”, “Significant decline in farmland hedgerow birds”, “We have lost greenfinches, bullfinches, green woodpeckers, jays, thrushes”
Insects, particularly butterflies and bees	300+ mentions	“A distinct decrease in insect life”, “A huge decrease in butterfly species”, “Lack of bees, pollinators in general”
Hedgehogs	114 mentions	“No hedgehogs”, “Hedgehogs have disappeared”
Smaller mammals (excluding bats)	50+ mentions	“Less smaller species such as hedgehogs, voles etc”, “Definite reduction in small rodents”, “Fewer rabbits and hares”
Amphibians	c30 mentions	“Streams and rivers never have frogspawn or newts anymore”, “Frogs and toads very rare”
Bats	c30 mentions	“I don’t see so many bats either now”, “Decrease in bats”, “Dreadful decline in the number of bats”

Noticed an increase in species (most mentions)

Species adapted to the urban environment – foxes, pigeons, rats, seagulls	c70 mentions	“Increase in seagulls and pigeons”, “Influx of seagulls and urban foxes”, “Increase in urban foxes”
Some birds of prey – Kites, Buzzards	c50 mentions	“Increase in red kites and buzzards”, “More birds of prey” “Increase in Buzzards over 30 years”.
Deer	c40 mentions	“A great increase in the number of deer, all species.”, “Far too many deer”, “More deer in the surrounding countryside”
Wildflowers	c10 mentions	“More native wildflowers due to changes in mowing habits”. “More wildflower species on roadsides”, “More wildflowers in local fields”



Which species are West Sussex survey respondents most concerned about/most want to see recovered.

Species	Mentions	% of mentions
Hedgehogs	195	21%
Birds (excludes Owls, Swifts and Turtle Doves)	189	20%
Insects (excludes butterflies)	115	12%
Plants & trees	48	5%
Small mammals (excludes Water Voles)	40	4%
Butterflies	38	4%
Swifts	37	4%
Bats	36	4%
Water Voles	33	4%
Amphibians	31	3%
Owls	25	3%
Reptiles	24	3%
Badgers	21	2%
Deer	21	2%
Fish and marine species	19	2%
Beavers	18	2%
Foxes	15	2%
Dormice	15	2%
Turtle dove	12	1%
Otters	12	1%



“At risk from slug pellets, too much concrete (habitat destruction) and too few urban hedgerows”

Insects, birds and hedgehogs received by far the most mentions. For this chart, some individual species have been pulled out (rather than grouped into broader categories) to show how many mentions they received e.g. Swifts, Butterflies, Owls etc

WS Qual: Amphibians

This section shares some of the many comments provided by survey respondents to illustrate what's important to local people and the strength of their feeling about issues related to species.

What respondents value

What they like most about these species	Wider benefits	Where they see these species
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These seem like a link with our primeval past • Frogs: interesting lifecycle and attractive animal • Frogs: Enjoy watching them transform • Frogs: Evolution from tadpoles in the pond • Great crested newts: Beautiful, mythical dragons on our doorstep, with an incredible metamorphosis. • Newts: A joy to watch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frogs: Bring so much joy to me and any members of the public nearby. Easy to spot. • Memories of finding them as a child. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shows healthy eco system in garden • Frogs: Quality of water and accessibility • Toads: such good garden workers! • Otters: Good habitat and the availability of fish (unpolluted water)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [Frogs] They thrive in the ditches and watercourses at the land North of Middleton-on-Sea. • Kingly Vale NNR: Palmate newts & frogs in the pond • Amersham common: Stunning heath, dense amphibian and reptile population • In my garden – mentioned by multiple survey respondents 		

What respondents have noticed

Species decline	Pressures on these species	Species increases	What respondents want to see happen
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When I was young, every stream was full of sticklebacks, tiddlers, frogspawn, tadpoles. I still look in every stream... but they are nearly always barren. • In our small pond, which used to be full of frogspawn, tadpoles, etc. we have had no frogs for many years for some reason. • No frogs for 12 years or more now in pond. • Frogs and toads very rare. • No toads spotted this year. • Streams and rivers never have frogspawn or newts anymore. • Amphibians disappearing. • Newts, lizard and adders were common when we moved to this area. Now they are becoming very rare. • Never see frog spawn 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our pond originally had frogs and newts. Not seen frogs for 3 years now but did have a few with red leg disease in final year. • We need to get legislation changed to stop the killing of our birds and insects with chemicals. I used to see lizards and newts all the time when I was little but now only once in a very blue moon. • More silt in ponds as drain aways not filtered. • [Great crested newts] They are in decline so it's important to ensure they have ponds to reproduce. • Fewer ponds and wetlands. • Our local pond (Crawley Down) has been allowed to practically dry up. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When building new properties, ensuring that wildlife is considered - eg mandatory swift 'bricks', bat boxes, ponds, tree planting, wildflower planting, etc. • I would like to see a formal collaboration between the Environment Agency, the District Council, Sussex Wildlife Trust, Local landowners and local groups of volunteers that can work together to enhance some of our existing features like lakes, ponds to... allow for suitable habitats for dragonfly species, Newts etc. • Need more urban ponds taking water from roofs.



WS Qual: Large mammals (badgers, deer, foxes, otters)

What respondents value

What they like most about these species

- Badgers; **Nocturnal and secretive**
- Badgers: I always feel **privileged to see a badger**...I love being still and watching them go about their business.
- Badgers: Their funny ways & I love to see them
- Deer: **pretty, engaging, flighty!**
- Deer: **Beautiful**
- Deer: I think the sight of a buck with antlers is so **majestic**.
- Foxes: lovely, and very **misunderstood**
- Foxes: Love to have the opportunity to see our stunning red foxes play, with their cubs. Just **magical**.
- Foxes: **Remarkably adaptable** to humanised habitats
- Foxes: creatures of habit and **shy visitors** nightly to my garden
- Foxes: **Beautiful intelligent animals**
- Otters: Always **entertaining** to watch when you can see them

Wider benefits

- Foxes: We have a good population here and they help **keep the rats under control!**
- Otters: Attractive, **a sign of a healthy river** and so good to have a success story in recovery terms.

Where they see these species

- Badgers: Iconic native species - **visit my garden & others nearby**
- Badgers: Never seen a live one locally, only **roadkill**
- Deer: I regularly see these on the train to work, between Horsham and Billingshurst
- **Harting Down:** Herds of deer
- Foxes: Welcome visitors to **my garden**
- **Deer: Little Daux fields Billingshurst:** Peaceful and love watching the deer and birds early in the morning.

What respondents have noticed

Species declines

- **Haven't seen any badgers** along the hedgerows of the western border of my town since a housing development.
- **Less sightings of deer** around the fields surrounding Felpham.
- Deer **used to be a regular sight** in our neighbourhood.
- With all the housebuilding in Angmering, we have **lost local foxes**.
- **Decline** in foxes
- We have **lost our foxes** due to new housing

Pressures on these species

- Deer: Hardly any habitat left, **too much building!**
- Lots of wildlife are being **killed on the roads**, I especially see a lot of foxes and badgers.
- Badgers: More badgers being killed
- Foxes: See more as natural habitat being destroyed by **excessive house building**
- Dead badgers and foxes on the roadside, wildlife forced into urban spaces by **loss of habitat**.
- More deer on the roads as their **habitats are destroyed**
- Where foxes, badgers and bats used to be free to roam, they have all gone due to **housing developments**.

Species increase (and issues)

- **Badger:** Over protection of badger is **creating an imbalance** of woodland species.
- A great **increase in the number of deer**, all species.
- **Too many deer** in the countryside.
- **Otters: Resurgence** after decline
- Many **more foxes**
- There are too many dominating species in the local area which is causing negative effect on other species. **Deer causing large amount of damage. Badger eating hedgehogs.**
- More **urban foxes. (Foxes damage carefully nurtured garden areas and drive vulnerable species away.)**

What respondents want to see happen

- Badgers: Very sad to see dead animals by roadside are there any ways to try and prevent this? **Wildlife tunnels bridges?**
- Badgers: Important to **preserve sets** and unspoilt spaces.
- Badgers & foxes: **Protect them from hunting and culling**
- Much as I like the deer on the brooks their **number needs management**.
- Poor animals and birds cannot hear electric cars coming. These **cars should have engine sounds**.
- **Please look at the wider picture when making wildlife corridors** we have one in Horsham that is not recognised but is regularly used by the deer.



WS Qual: Insects

What respondents value

What they like most about these species

- Bees: **lovely to watch!**
- Bees: Watching them at work & love **honey**
- Bumblebees: The soundtrack of summer.
- Butterflies: **Most beautiful insects** - sadly disappearing at an alarming rate.
- Butterflies: Less and less each year which makes any sightings special.
- Brimstone butterflies: one of the first to appear - **herald of spring.**
- Peacock butterflies: Their beauty takes me by surprise every time.
- Dragonflies: Solar powered predators, so cool.
- Insects: **Pollination, sheer variety, essential**
- Emperor moth, Saturnia pavonia: Britain's only silkmoth
- Hummingbird hawk moths: Seen very rarely now, but beautiful and fascinating to watch at work sipping nectar from buddleia flowers.
- Stag beetle: **wonderful** life cycle
- Stag beetles: They were a **part my youth**, rescuing those on their backs. Hardly ever seen them now. **Crazy horns and they can fly!**
- Glow worm: We have a small population of them in our garden, they **are really special**
- Hoverflies: A **superbly adapted** group of insects. Great pollinators

Wider benefits

- Bees: **one of the many pollinators that help nature thrive**
- Bees: **important** to the environment and **ecological safety** of the country
- Bees: Our fantastic pollinators. Enable the proliferation of flowers and fruiting berries
- Butterflies: **Biodiversity indicator**
- Insects: They are the **building blocks for ecology**
- Insects: Do amazing things as part of the cycle of life - **break down rotting natural materials**
- Mayflies: **sign of the health of a waterway**
- Fewer butterflies and insects generally – probably why we are seeing fewer insect eating birds.

Where they see these species

- Butterflies: **Sussex** is one of the best locations in the UK for number of species
- Marble White Butterfly: One of these came into **my garden** and stayed for a good 5 mins!
- Beeflies and hummingbird hawk moth: only seen them in **West Sussex**
- Caddisflies: Frequently encountered **in garden** and in moth traps.
- Although **Waterlea Meadow** does still have butterflies it used to be the best place to see them but last year I noticed a decline in numbers.

What they've noticed

Species declines

- **Decline in butterflies** - Small pearl-bordered fritillary and grayling now **extinct** in West Sussex.
- The **loss of insect life since the 1950's** is catastrophic. The fields were alive with them.
- **A dearth of insect species** that reflects in a similar dearth of wild birds, especially songbirds.
- **Far fewer insects.** I remember car bumpers being spattered with them every long car journey.
- Stag beetles: I conducted research on this species and it's **declining in Sussex**
- **Far fewer insects**, e.g bees, wasps, beetles, and especially diurnal moths.
- Almost **complete lack** of flying insects.
- Common soldier beetles have **vanished.**
- **Dramatic fall in abundance** of insects and small airborne wildlife.
- I remember the hum of mass of insects that you rarely hear now.

Pressures on these species

- Bees: in great danger of **pesticides.**
- lack of insects' particularly moths due to **street light pollution.**
- Moths: **Need specialist areas to live and breed**, often under pressure from human intrusion.
- Duke of Burgundy: Require **special sites and conditions**
- **Cutting back vegetation and autumn mowing** has been seen to have a catastrophic effect on insect populations with several lost entirely.
- Dramatic loss of insects as **we have turned messy into manicured.**
- **Flooding and pollution** in the harbour seems to have affected the amount of insects.
- Moths seem low and butterflies lower this year but has been **quite a wet run up to spring.**
- It's heartbreaking seeing **trees, 100s of years old, cut down and their ecosystems destroyed.**

Species increase

- **Purple Emperor Butterflies:** Rewilding at Knepp has brought these back to our county.
- Less obvious insects though good amount of **Bumble/solitary bees** visiting my flowering shrubs.
- Increase in number of **butterflies in 2023** compared to previous years.
- Since we put a wildlife pond in the garden, **more insects** and birds around it
- **Bees & other pollinators** are more plentiful in gardens where suitable plants have been provided and wildflowers encouraged.
- Seems to be an increase in **red admiral butterflies.**

What respondents want to see happen

- Insects are facing a mass extinction ...The first and easiest step is **more un-mowed /meadow areas.**
- We welcome **the reduction in verge cutting.**
- Council **planting trees** and **leaving grass verges unmown** to nurture insects.
- **More log piles** for insects & invertebrates.
- We need to keep the habitat we have and leave as much wild as possible. Also **STOP using weed killer and pesticides.**
- it would be nice if **patches of nature could be better**, to provide insects and small species with patches of nature to move across and rest in.
- **Bees and bee hives ,we need more of**
- **Planning authorities should be doing** far more for local diversity - swift boxes and **bee bricks** should be mandatory
- Bees - ban neonicotinoids!



WS Qual: Reptiles

What respondents value

What they like most about these species

- Adders: **Shy, beautiful and misunderstood.** Always such a treat to witness them.
- Adders: So **beautiful.**
- Slow worms: I discovered one in my garden when I first moved in 18 years ago since then I have provided a couple of habitats and have been rewarded with a great many oftentimes witnessing them giving birth.
- Lizards: Reminder of better times for wildlife
- Sand Lizard: **Beautiful and rare.**
- They're under-appreciated
- Lizards visit my garden regularly & always cheer me up!

Wider benefits

- Sand lizards: Cool! Shows **good land management.**
- Grass snake: **Help the eco system** in our garden.
-

Where they see these species

- Adders in **St Leonards Forest** and grass snakes at Red River. Rarer to find these days.
- Snakes: **Lancing Ring** appears to have quite a 'large' population which is interesting.
- Slow worms: **In my tiny garden** - I feel honoured!
- Snakes: Spotted in the **Ashdown Forest** heathland
- **Iping Common:** Great insect and reptile habitat.
- **Whitehouse Farm,** Chichester (now a Strategic Development Location): It was absolutely magic: skylarks, whitethroat, masses of reptiles...

What they've noticed

Species declines

- Grass snakes: You **never see them** these days.
- Fewer reptiles. No snakes for example.
- Grass snakes, slow worms songbirds have all **decreased in number.**
- **No longer see** snakes on the hills.
- Also adders are **rarely seen** here now.
- Local **extinction** of adders.
- I have **not seen many reptiles** despite looking around in the places they used to be.
- Frogs, toads, hedgehogs, **grass snakes, slow worms** songbirds have all decreased in number.
- Less snakes, Kingfishers, Stoats.

Pressures on these species

- Adders becoming extinct locally due to recent **introduction of Pheasants** into Adder habitat.
- Adders: Their habitats are being removed and I worry they'll be significantly reduced.

Species increase (and issues)

What respondents want to see happen



WS Qual: Birds (excluding Birds of prey)

What respondents value

What they like most about these species

- The sound of birds singing or calling is **good for my mental health**.
- **Bird song is euphoric!** Listening you can't help but feel alive.
- They are beautiful and lighten my spirits.
- Blackbirds: Simply seeing them enjoying foraging around the area **gives me a 'boost'**
- Blue tits: **colourful and fascinating to watch**.
- Brent geese: we are honoured with their yearly migration
- Chiff chaff: They arrive with spring and are **heard more than seen**
- **Cormorant: Timeless and prehistoric looking**
- Cuckoo: **Herald of wellbeing**.
- Dartford warbler: **Beautiful and rare**
- Egrets: **So beautiful and graceful. Like Egyptian Ibises in our own land.**
- **Kingfishers:** They come flashing down the river like **little jewelled jet fighters!**
- Magpie: They are **so intelligent**.
- Hearing the nightingale can be **life changing**.
- Robin: **Cheeky and cheer me up**.
- Skylark: **Exhilarating, sense of Sussex culture**
- **Starlings:** Display over Worthing pier is **amazing**
- **Swifts: especially precious** due to declining numbers
- Woodpeckers: Like to hear **drumming, pretty bird**.

Wider benefits

- Birds: Great for biodiversity and enjoyable to listen to.

Where they see these species

- Brent Geese: **Pagham Harbour** and surrounding area is famous for this species, now threatened by over-development.
- Swallows: Nest in **our garage**
- **Ferring Rife:** A variety of habitats to enjoy and the chance of seeing the heron and the egrets.
- **Knepp:** Incredible habitat, White Stork project, amazing for birds and wildlife.
- Littlehampton beach: Seabirds
- **Pagham Harbour:** The sound and sight of seabirds and waders.
- **Bosham:** Idyllic setting, lovely sea birds and swans and cygnets
- Birdlife at **Pulborough Brooks**.

What they've noticed

Species declines

- Number of **swifts returning to breed declines** every year.
- **Dearth of wild birds**, especially songbirds.
- **A lot less diversity** of small birds: nuthatch etc.
- **Less ground nesting birds**.
- **Far fewer passerine species** (smaller perching birds)
- A **reduction in water birds** such as Curlews.
- **Conspicuous reductions** of cuckoo, turtle dove, lapwing, corn bunting, yellowhammer etc.
- I **don't hear the dawn chorus** anymore.
- **Year round reduction of birds** in my garden.
- **Decrease in commoner farmland birds** - notably Yellowhammer, tree sparrow, corn bunting, turtle dove but generally across all species
- **Fewer migrating birds**.

Pressures on these species

- **Far fewer insects** which in turn affects bird populations.
- Killing them with **pesticides and pollution**.
- Declining due to **increasing numbers of cats**.
- **Avian Flu**.
- Sadly getting **killed by the buzzards**.
- Birds are much harder to find than 25 years ago partly due to **too much new housing on Greenfield sites** compounding the other pressures they face (**bird flu, climate change, etc**).
- Decrease in many bird and butterfly species. Main causes are **changes in climate**, and **disruption by too many people and dogs** getting too close to nesting sites.
- **Housing development and loss of fields and trees** has hugely impacted on the amount of birds

Species increase

- **Storks: Re-introduction at Knepp** is fantastic
- **Storks:** Located at **Knepp Rewilding**: a joy to visit.
- More birdlife in some areas due to **flooding in flood plains and farmland**.
- **Increase in seagulls and pigeons**, but fewer starlings, tits, finches.
- An increase in **wood pigeons**.
- An increase in **Jackdaws, magpies ...and seagulls**.
- **Creation of Medmerry** has attracted more and the efforts in our own garden have encouraged many more birds.
- **An increase in wetland species** such as Little Egrets.
- **Gulls have increased** due to some flat roof businesses allowing them to breed which has seen competition for food for other birds.

What respondents want to see happen

- When building new properties, ensuring that wildlife is considered - eg **mandatory swift 'bricks'**
- Default bird boxes.
- **Dogs should be kept on leads** at all times at reserves like Medmerry and pagham, and on the downs.
- Ask cat owners to put **bells on their cats**. I am sick of them catching all the birds I nurture (boxes and food).



WS Qual: Birds of prey

What respondents value

What they like most about these species		Wider benefits	Where they see these species
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beautiful to watch in flight. • Majestic flying patterns • Barn owls: Beautiful bird, silent hunter, indicator of good biodiversity. • Buzzard: Just a magnificent bird • Buzzard: Captivating when soaring above fields. • Goshawk: Majestic and noble to watch. • Kites: Effortlessly using thermals overhead. • I love hearing the Tawnies and Little owls, and occasionally seeing them silently moving from tree to tree. • Owls: Love to hear them hoot. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peregrine Falcon: magnificent, strength, speed, intelligence • Red Kites: Their size, beauty and majesty as they glide and swoop. A privilege to see them. • Red Kites: Love to hear and watch them soar. • White tailed eagle: Amazing large bird of prey-recent addition to our skies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beautiful to see and indicator of biodiversity • Any bird of prey, it tends to mean the eco system is in a better balance. • Suggests other species are doing ok. • Red kites, buzzards, sparrowhawks, tawny owls etc I think the fact I see these is a good indicator of plentiful food sources- mostly rodents or smaller birds. Those are the "invisible" or barely noticed wildlife, but so important to ecosystems. • Kites: Shows nature is able to support top predators • Sparrowhawks: get rid of pesky wood pigeons. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peregrine Falcon: Love that we see them in Chichester city centre. • Pulborough Brooks: Spotting sea eagles. • Bramber castle: Peaceful, historic, lots of places to explore, eagles at eye height, landscape views. • Burpham/ Rackham Hill: Down land with distant views; birds, particularly raptors. • Wiston Estate: Favourite spot to look for barn owls, red kites, buzzards. • Chailey Common: usually sightings of buzzards,

What they've noticed

Species declines	Pressures on these species	Species increase	What respondents want to see happen
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barn owls: Once thriving over river meadows but have rapidly declined over the past 10 years. • Owls used to call every night in winter - no longer. • Ten or fifteen years ago we had Barn owls regularly hunting in the field next to the house. • Fewer large birds of prey in South Downs than 5 years ago. • When we arrived in Chichester we'd often hear an owl or see a sparrowhawk or kestrel in town, now we never do. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Owls have disappeared around me due to new houses. • The Tawny owls I've heard from my bedroom for 35 years have left since a neighbouring field was built on last year. • Have notice a decrease in thrushes and owls in particular due to loss of tall trees through disease and ignorance. • Everywhere you drive in West Sussex swathes of trees and woodland being cut down that was soaking up run off and homes to Owls and bats. • Used to have large raptors circling regularly overhead - not now since so many new housing estates have been built over farmers' fields. • Dead trees being removed, less places for bats, owls, to nest up in (old farm builds. • Birds of prey killed by gamekeepers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More Peregrine Falcons around. • Kites: They are making a comeback after almost disappearing • Red kites: So graceful, so easy to spot or hear and a conservation success story. • Introduction of sea eagles. • White tailed eagle: Successful reintroduction program. • White-tailed Eagles nesting successfully for the second year running on Amberley Wildbrooks. • Red Kites: Evidence of recovery in my lifetime. • More birds of prey e.g. Red Kites, Buzzards. • There are some exciting developments - eg: Knepp Castle, South Downs National Park. There are species returning - Buzzards, Red Kites. Birds of prey seem to be on the increase. • Rarely see kestrels. Buzzards & kites increased 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nest boxes being put up in people's homes and in Chesworth farm. We have a local pair of kestrels and barn owls that have multiyear success with offsprings.



WS Qual: Small mammals (hedgehogs, rabbits, hares, rodents, beavers, voles, bats)

What respondents value

What they like most about these species

- Brown hare: **Beautiful, iconic.**
- Hedgehogs: Love them and need to help protect them.
- Hedgehogs: In danger of extinction - epitomise Britain
- Hedgehogs: Because they are so cute!
- Hedgehogs: An honour to support a **vulnerable, unique mammal.**
- Hedgehogs: **increasingly rare nowadays.**
- Water Voles: Nationally **rare**, fast declining and **VERY special.**
- Water Voles: **England's rarest mammal**
- Water voles: **Beautiful and a crucial part of the riverside** in the past but so in need of help.
- Dormice: **Adorable** animal.
- Bats: They **zoom in tight circles** catching insects.
- Bats: Love seeing in the summer evenings watching them **sweeping above the garden.**
- Bats: Sussex has 24 species of bat all protected and some very rare
- Bechstein Bats: The recent discovery of so many roosts and individuals here between Ifield and Rusper has been such a thrill

Wider benefits

- Hedgehogs: they **eat garden pests** like slugs.
- Dormice: Too cute and **indicate healthy hazel coppice** = good human stewardship.
- Hazel dormice: Important species **indicative of healthy woodland.**
- Beavers: Reintroduction is **hopeful for water systems**
- Beavers: an engine for **increasing biodiversity.**
- Beavers: **Get those rivers meandering again!**
- Bats: They are a **good indicators of the health of habitats**
- Beavers: **Encouraging natural dams** is important.

Where they see these species

- Hedgehogs: Declining but in **local gardens.**
- **Fields in Acton Lane: The Elm farm site** is our green corridor for our garden hedgehogs.. we get bats and a bigger variety of birds due to the farm.

What they've noticed

Species declines

- Hedgehogs: When I was a child hedgehogs were a daily sight, now **no longer.**
- **No hedgehogs now.**
- Hedgehogs: worried about their possible **extinction.**
- **A big decrease** in the number of rabbits and hedgehogs.
- **Dreadful decline** in the number of bats.
- Hedgehogs have **disappeared** in our village.
- **Decreased** hedgehog sightings. Used to have a regular garden visitor.
- **Fewer** insects and **bats.** We used to get bats over our gardens in the evening. Not any more.
- **Rarely see** hares, water voles or hedgehogs.
- The main loss is insects but in my particular area I **miss the rabbits.**

Pressures on these species

- Brown hare: **Habitat is disappearing** with so much building development.
- **Decline of hedgerows** so birds and hedgehogs have nowhere to nest or scabble about.
- **Hacking of hedgerows** in autumn/winter, which means they don't have enough time to recover, bud and flower in time for insects, bees, **dormice,**
- **Badgers eating hedgehogs.**
- Natural England guidance for dormice habitat are **out of date.**
- **To many house and roads** forcing wildlife further away. Less rabbits, foxes, small mammals.
- Loss of Hedgehogs, **weed killer** doesn't help them or us.
- Loss of bats in my garden due to their **habitat being developed.**
- **Bats nesting sites have been destroyed** by over development and urbanisation of the area.

Species increase

- Increased long grass 'no mow may' has increased the habitat for **voles** in the garden...will this lead to increases in owl numbers??
- **Beavers:** not seen them yet - but love their return to Knepp - and the impact they are having on their habitat.

What respondents want to see happen

- **Hedgehogs:** For goodness sake **stop building over habitats!**
- If housing is built, **protect the wild hedgerows, fit hedgehog highways. Wildlife corridors.**
- Save the hedgehog.
- All garden fences should have gaps for **hedgehog highways.**
- Bats: **protecting their habitat** is essential.
- Would love to see the **re-introduction of beavers** - with special benefits to flood damage reduction.



WS Qual: Fish & Marine species

What respondents value

What they like most about these species		Wider benefits	Where they see these species
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eels: diversity Dolphins: Magical. Close connections to humans. Communicative. Seahorses: Fascinating creatures that need protecting. Samphire: It's under rated quality of taste but also home to wildlife. Marine life: It's amazing what's under the water here! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A day is especially magical if we glimpse the seal (I'm told its name is 'Gavin-the-seal'!) Seals: only seen once on the South coast but I love knowing they are there (and dolphins too). Sea Slugs: Can be amazingly beautiful. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brown Trout: An indicator of the health of a chalk stream Kelp: so important for planetary health, positive action. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Barbel have been in the rivers Arun and Rother for well over 50 years. Dolphins: It's lovely knowing there are groups of dolphins living just off our shores. Seals: Occasional glimpse in Pagham Harbour, great fun.

What they've noticed

Species declines	Pressures on these species	Species increase	What respondents want to see happen
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sea Trout: Annual visitors to the Arun and Rother although numbers have rapidly decreased. Reduction of fish in the harbour. There appears to be less wildlife in rock pools, almost sterile. 30 years ago was able to find shrimp, crabs, small fish and shell fish, sadly a rare occasion if any seen. Polluted rivers from sewage outlets. Polluted sea from shipping. Both destroying fish life. Have noticed a lot less ducks and fish in local rivers. This I imagine is due to water companies polluting the water which is a great concern. Not seen seals or dolphins for 2 years. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seals: Sometimes disturbed by human activity. Due to sewage being pumped into the sea the wildlife won't be here much longer The poor condition of local streams and rivers near South Harting means that many of them no longer contain the same aquatic species as I found in them 40 years ago e.g. brook lamprey, eels stone loach, white clawed crayfish. Our river is in a sorry state. Streams polluted with fish dying. Polluted rivers and rifies poisoning water mammals and fish. More dead dolphins due to the super trawlers that are allowed in our waters. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An increase in marine mammal activity - seals, dolphins and porpoises. I have noticed a great increase in certain marine species due to measures imposed to allow the regrowth of the coastal kelp forests and strict fisheries management... increase such as smooth-hounds, bass and ray species showing that the policies are having a positive effect. Over the last couple of years the smooth-hound population has greatly increased and larger specimens being caught and released by anglers all along the Sussex coast, On the river Rother the Environment Agency, Petworth & Bognor Angling Club and the Wild Trout Trust worked hard together to create riffles to act as spawning beds to aid natural increase in fish stocks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trawler fishing boats should be stopped wrecking the kelp beds in are seabed. Seahorses: Knowing they are returning with the restoration of sea grasses.



WS Qual: Plants & fungus

What respondents value

What they like most about these species

- Blue bells: Shear **delight** to see these flowers and the bees, butterflies, moths that visit.
- Bluebells: Seeing a carpet of them is **lovely sight**.
- Chalk grassland orchids: **Beautiful and rare**.
- Fly Agaric, Amanita muscaria: an **iconic fungus**.
- Moss & lichen: **Exquisite** to view up close.
- Trees: Particularly ancient ones. Their **ecological value** cannot simply be replaced with a tiny whip.
- Trees: give such a **calming vibe, look amazing**
- Oak: Puts me in touch with our **heritage**.
- Hawthorn: **Spring blossom**, autumn colour, berries
- Poppies, cornflowers, etc - the **smell and colour** brighten up any field.
- Hazel: yellow catkins in the spring can be **ethereal**.
- Wildflowers are an awakening of the new season and can **put a smile on your face** and aroma up your nose
- Wood anemone: Steeped in childhood woodland memories - **beautifully delicate**.
- Yellow poppies: **Unusual**, only found on shingle beaches.

Wider benefits

- Trees: Because they **give a home to wildlife, shade** in summer, sounds in the wind, **oxygen**.
- Trees: Beautiful, **supports biodiversity, captures carbon**.
- Oak: **Havens** for indigenous species
- Wild orchids: Beautiful and **indicates good management**.
- Wild orchids: As they are an **indicator of ancient grassland**.
- Capitotricha bicolor: An alien like species that is **essential to the healthy functioning of our planet**. Variety of looks, smells and hues.

Where they see these species

- Cortinarius pratensis: Always amazing to see this pretty toadstool in its unusual habitat (it **lives in sand dunes** whereas almost all Cortinarius species are found with trees).
- **Kingly Vale**: Beautiful walk with great views and ancient yew trees.
- Small leaved lime: I love the sense that this ancient woodland indicator can be seen regularly here, and that **House Copse SSSI** is such a rarity in the south.

What they've noticed

Species declines

- **Loss** of wildflower meadows.
- **Less variety** of plants, damage to trees.
- Burley's Wood, Pound Hill has **lost** its ancient bluebell area over the last 30 years to untimely mowing and proximity to Spanish bluebells.
- **Reduction** in Trees, Reduction in Bluebells. **reduction in diversity**, especially along roadways.
- The bluebells are **not as prolific** as they used to be.
- Wild flowers are **not as plentiful** as they used to be. ~~40~~ Many trees have **died or been felled**. I really miss elms.

Pressures on these species

- A reduction in silver birch trees thriving in our area generally due to **climate change**.
- **Ash die back** clearance has got rid of all the trees, and the newly planted ones have been mostly trampled / damaged by 'walkers'
- Less plant diversity. **Oak and ash die back** :-(**Horse chestnut depletion**.
- Plants not managed so things like **bramble get out of hand**.
- Small areas of green covered with **weed killer** - killing poppies, Bluebells, foxgloves etc.
- Plants growing earlier due **to global warming** but could still be **frozen** and die Esp daffodils and snow drops.

Species increase

- More **wildflowers** in local fields.
- The rewilding and **wildflowers** around the Adur parks has been awesome.
- Verges cut less often so more **wildflowers** and bugs.
- More **plants** on Shoreham beach, more **street trees** in Shoreham and **small orchards** in parks

What respondents want to see happen

- Let plants **self seed and grow** in urban areas. Get rid of the "**tidy up with poison**" mentality.
- **Plant more trees, community orchards, community gardens**, proper wild areas.
- **Tree planting**.
- **Less removal** of mature trees.
- **Stop the strimming! Restore verges!** Plant more wildflowers... make more TPOs to prevent casual/ill-considered tree-felling





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A collective blueprint for targeted action

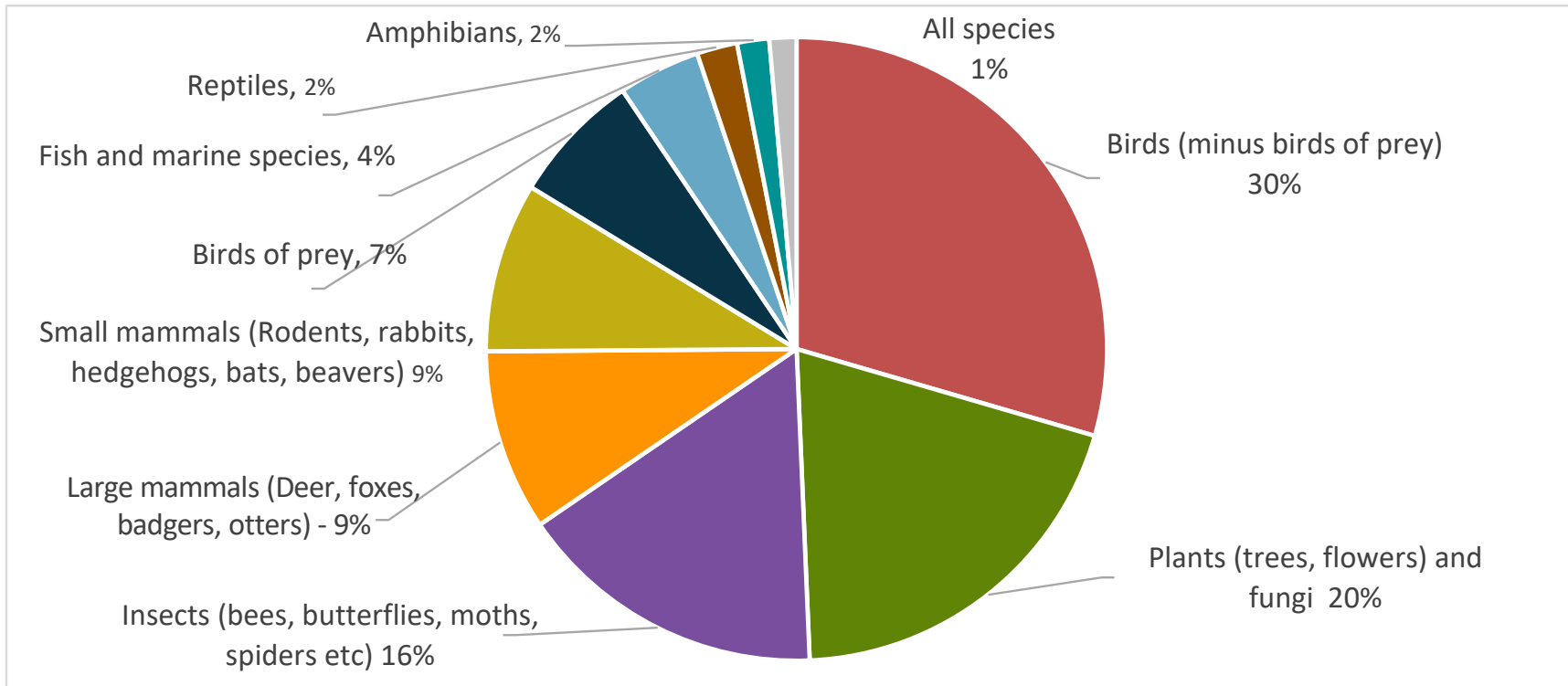
East Sussex & Brighton & Hove responses

SussexNatureRecovery.org.uk



ES Quant: Which groups of species do East Sussex and Brighton & Hove survey respondents value the most?

Survey respondents provided over **1,848** responses to the question 'Are there any species of wildlife that you especially enjoy seeing or knowing that they're in your county?' These encompassed many types of taxonomic rank or name from individual species (e.g. 'Goldfinch') to informal groups (e.g. garden birds) and other generalist terms (e.g. 'birds'). Over 275 species types were provided in this way by East Sussex and Brighton & Hove respondents. Here they have been grouped together to form 10 broad categories.



Notes: Respondents could provide up to three species in three separate text boxes. When analysing responses, only the first answer in each text box was taken.


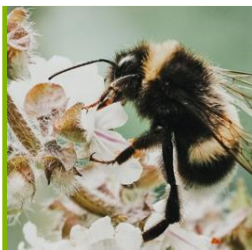








ES Quant: Top 20 bird species mentioned by East Sussex and Brighton & Hove survey respondents

Rank	Bird species	# of first answer mentions	Sample comments
1	Skylarks	45	"Singing on the Downs"
2	Buzzards/Honey Buzzards	31	"Exciting and majestic"
3	Swifts	24	"Spend most of their lives on the wing"
4	Nightingales	23	"Their song is such a privilege to hear"
5	Kingfishers	20	"An iconic bird"
6	Barn owls/Owls/Tawny Owls	20	"Love to hear the hooting at night"
7	Gulls/Heron gulls/Seagulls	19	"Beautiful and the sound of Brighton"
8	Woodpeckers/Green woodpeckers/Greater Spotted	18	"Echoing sound in the wood"
9	Kites/Red kites	16	"Brought back from extinction"
10	Starlings	16	"Amazing murmuration"
11	Robins	15	"So much personality!"
12	Goldfinches and Greenfinches	11	"Gorgeous garden bird"
13	House sparrow/Sparrows	10	"Cheeriest bird I know!"
14	Kestrels	9	"Love how they hang in the air"
15	Blue tits/Tits/long tailed tits	8	"Seen daily at bird feeders"
16	Swallows	8	"Beautiful fliers"
17	Blackbirds	7	"They visit my little garden"
18	Nightjars	7	"Great otherworldly call"
19	Swans	6	"A treat to see them"
20	Cuckoos	6	"A joy to see this declining species"

Birds were East Sussex and Brighton & Hove respondents' favourite group of species. While 172 respondents simply answered with "birds", the table lists the 20 most popular individual species given, and one of the reasons they are a favourite.



ES Quant: Top 10 most valued non-bird species by number of mentions

									
Butterflies	Bees	Hedgehogs	Orchids	Foxes	Bluebells	Deer	Badgers	Bats	Seals
127	65	57	50	49	47	46	45	40	27
Spotting the rare ones	Under threat	Under threat	Iconic plants of the Downs	Friendly visitors to my back yard	Beautiful harbinger of spring	Graceful animals	Lovely to watch	A treat to see	Curious and Playful
Elusive specks of colour	A priority to keep them alive	Very lucky to spot one	Rarity value	To see foxes and cubs in the Spring	Beautiful carpets of blue	Love to see them in their herd	Much maligned	indicator of dark skies	They come to our beaches
Emblematic of the downs	Pollinating our plants	Good for the garden	An indicator of wider biodiversit	Magnificent creature	Getting rarer	Magical	Large charismatic animals	Love seeing them flit about	Healthy marine environment

A number of species only received one mention. These include some lesser known and rare examples. A flavour of these is below

Birds	Insects	Plants	Mammals	Marine	Fungi
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avocet • Cetti`s warbler • Dartford warbler • Fieldfares • Partridges • Spoonbill • Tree Creepers • Meadow Pippit • Marsh tits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buff-Tailed Bumble Bee (<i>Bombus terrestris</i>) • Marble White Butterfly • Long tailed blue Butterfly • Black Hairstreak Butterfly • Flame Brocade moth • Burnet moths • Fen raft spiders • Longhorn Beetle • Yellow loosestrife bees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • False fox sedge • Devil's-bit Scabious • Early-spider orchid • Knapweed • Vipers bugloss • Yellow horned poppy • Red Hempnettle - <i>Galeopsis angustifolia</i> • Ox Eye Daisies • Blackthorn • Coralroot bittercress (<i>Cardamine bulbifera</i>) • Bowles Mint (<i>mentha x villosa var. alopecroides</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weasel • Stoats • Noctule Bat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Snakelock anemone • hermit crabs • Short Snouted Seahorse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basket stinkhorn fungi • Fly agaric • Slime mold • Sundew

What East Sussex and Brighton & Hove respondents have noticed

Noticed a decrease in species (most mentions)

Insects, particularly butterflies and bees	260+ mentions	"Huge losses of insects like bees, butterflies and other pollinators", "Car windscreen no longer plastered with dead insects",
Birds (generally, individual species and types such farm birds, garden birds, hirundine etc).	200+ mentions	"Bird life has dramatically decreased", "Decline in a number of bird species e.g. greenfinch, sparrow", "Decline in Swifts"
Hedgehogs	65 mentions	"A lot less hedgehogs", "As a child we used to see hedgehogs all the time. I haven't seen one in years", "Disappearance of hedgehogs"
Smaller mammals (excluding bats)	c20 mentions	"Decrease of protected mammal species such as dormice, water voles", "The rabbit population has declined drastically"
Bats	c13 mentions	"Decrease in number of bats", "Decrease in bats due to lights"
Reptiles	c12 mentions	"Where are the... grass snakes?" "Far fewer... reptiles"

Noticed an increase in species (most mentions)

Species adapted to the urban environment – foxes, pigeons, rats, seagulls	c22 mentions	"See more foxes in urban areas", "More seagulls and rats", "Increase in gulls, pigeons, magpies. Big increase in foxes coming through garden"
Some birds of prey – Kites, Buzzards	c17 mentions	"More birds of prey", "Now I see buzzards, peregrines, even the white-tailed eagle"
Deer	c15 mentions	"Deer are increasing with no effective control", "Deer everywhere and eating habitats due to hunger"
Wildflowers	c10 mentions	"More wildflowers by roads and in paths", "Pleased to see more cowslips on the verges",

ES Quant: Top 20 Species that East Sussex and Brighton & Hove residents are most concerned about/most want to see recovered

Species	Mentions	% of mentions
Birds (excludes Swifts, Nightingales, Owls)	134	22%
Insects (excludes butterflies)	107	17%
Hedgehogs	87	14%
Fish and marine species	42	7%
Butterflies	32	5%
Small mammals (includes voles, rabbit but not dormice)	30	5%
Plants & trees	28	5%
Amphibians	21	3%
Bats	21	3%
Swifts	19	3%
Badgers	15	2%
Beavers	13	2%
Nightingales	13	2%
Reptiles	12	2%
Dormice	10	2%
Otters	9	1%
Skylarks	9	1%
Owls	7	1%
Foxes	6	1%
	615	



“I have noticed fewer insects in the summer months, particularly bees and butterflies. It feels like an increasingly rare occurrence to see insects like dragonflies, even in areas with water.”

Insects, birds and hedgehogs received by far the most mentions. For this chart, some individual species have been pulled out (rather than grouped into broader categories) to show how many mentions they received e.g. Swifts, Butterflies, Owls etc

ES Qual: Amphibians

This section shares some of the many comments provided by survey respondents to illustrate what's important to local people and the strength of their feeling about issues related to species.

What respondents value

What they like most about these species	Wider benefits	Where they see these species
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> European Toad: For the migrations of young toads you see in early summer. Love watching them change from tadpole to frog. Marsh frogs: Spring cacophony makes me laugh. Frogs: They breed in my small pond I have in my garden. Hearing them croaking in spring is something that I look forward to all winter Frogs: For over 34 years I have had frogs in my wildlife pond and I will not, not get excited by the arrival of Frogspawn. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Toad: Although it's a courtyard, and therefore somewhat urban, I feel something must be right if he wants to visit me. Newts: Exciting to see them thrive. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Their gardens. Their allotments: We have had slow worms and toads on the plot. Tadpoles and newts in Preston Park pond

What they've noticed

Species declines	Pressures on these species	Species increase	What respondents want to see happen
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frogs and toads, where have they all gone? In my local area I have seen declines in Common Toad, Common Frog... Missing... frogs and toads. Frogs and tadpoles are now rare sightings and used to be common. Significant decrease in wildlife in and around local rivers/streams - very few insects so also fewer mammals and amphibians. Less amphibians. Loss of many bird species and pond life. There are ponds in the Broadoak park. In the Spring they would be teeming with frogs breeding. I have not witnessed any for the last three years. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Property developers have eliminated wetlands, lakes/ponds. Ponds filled in. Ponds not kept clean. Ponds drying out because they are no longer managed and repaired. Increased numbers of dog walkers - dogs not on leads and disrupting habitats. [In the newt pond in Preston Park] children are seen poking hands into water. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newts: Have worked to develop a viable colony of smooth newts in my pond. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waterhall - the pond is fenced around... But keep dogs out! I have seen dogs going in and it is not secure enough. People need to be encouraged to do things on their own land and gardens, like leaving piles of leaves, feeding birds, creating wild ponds etc.



ES Qual: Large mammals (badgers, deer, foxes, otters)

What respondents value

What they like most about these species		Wider benefits	Where they see these species
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Badgers: They have such a amazing sets and the way they interact with each other is so important. Badgers: They are such impressive animals. Deer: Beautiful creatures in their natural environment. Deer: It feels magical to see them wandering across the garden. Deer: Possibly the most graceful of creatures. Deer: Exciting to watch during the rut. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foxes: They come into our garden and are so full of character. Foxes: Because lots of people don't like this adaptable animal. Foxes: Such clever, resilient and graceful animals. Foxes: wonderful to see young cubs playing and being nursed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foxes: Entertaining to watch and control vermin. Otters: Want them back in Sussex to show abundance of fish and indicators of clean waters. Otters: It's a sign that there are fish in a functioning river ecosystem. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I have seen evidence of Badgers living in Views Wood and it makes me happy. Deer: Various areas of local woodland. Rowlands Corner, Laughton: Butterflies & moths, deer, ancient beech & hornbeam Foxes: Their gardens. Foxes: Their streets. Deer: On top of the South Downs.

What they've noticed

Species declines	Pressures on these species	Species increase	What respondents want to see happen
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decrease in insect life of all varieties, foxes, badgers etc. Far fewer deer, badger, fox sightings and hearings. Urban foxes are declining due to the wheelie bins. They lost their major food source. Now if you do see one they are skinny, scruffy and often have skin conditions I haven't seen an otter for 40 years. Badger are also seen less (except in roadkill). Some species such as badgers are rarely seen now. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Badgers: Persecuted needlessly. Badgers: Under severe threat and being culled due to Bovine TB. Increasing numbers of dead foxes and badgers at the side of fast A roads. Deer and foxes driven from their habitats by building works causing more traffic collisions. Foxes: We have built on their homes. Foxes: due to mankind's interference with their environment that they've had to scavenge more around towns and then they're vilified for that. Far more death of wildlife on the roads, deer, badgers, hedgehogs and foxes for example because more and more roads are built with no thought for animals needing to roam their ancient routes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See more urban foxes. Growth in numbers of urban foxes. I see foxes in daylight now. I assume this is due to their habitats being lost forcing them into urban areas. Too many deer - numbers need managing. Deer too rampant and damage landscape. More deer. Lovely to see, but I understand the need/reasons for culling. Far fewer insects and fewer birds than when I was growing up in the 70s, but more badgers and deer. Too many deer graze the Ashdown Forest destroying the plant diversity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The main change that I've noticed is the desolation left by high deer numbers. I'm amazed that the problem isn't acknowledged publicly more than it is, and more effort isn't being made to educate people on the damage that high numbers cause. We also need to be culling deer, especially the non-native species, and encouraging the consumption of venison as a means to support this. I don't condone mass culling of wildlife because it is an inconvenience, but deer cause a lot of damage to woodlands and their numbers are excessive.



ES Qual: Insects

What respondents value

What they like most about these species

- Bees: **Listening to them bumble** between the flowers
- Honeybees: I love the sight and sound of these **hard-working insects** who remind me constantly that we cannot do without them and other pollinators.
- Butterflies: **Wonderful variety** in Sussex.
- Butterflies: We have enjoyed watching caterpillars turn into beautiful butterflies: we have watched them for over 20 years and looking forward to my grandchildren carrying this on.
- Little blue butterflies: Chalk down's rarity.
- Dragonflies: Like fairies in my garden.
- We had an Eyed hawkmoth in our garden yesterday I love seeing the varieties.
- Adonis Blue: Stunning butterfly with **complex life cycle**.
- Fen Raft Spider: **Rare spider** found in Pevensey levels.
- Hummingbird Hawk moths: Incredibly **fascinating** to observe In our garden with sometimes six visiting at once.
- Stag beetle: **Indicator of dead wood habitat** that is needed.
- Woodlice: My favourite insect ever, they're so **fascinating** to look at.

Wider benefits

- Beautiful, pollinators, and such a **good indicator of general wildlife health**.
- Bees: **Keystone** species.
- Bees: They **help us to grow our food**.
- Butterflies: Beautiful & gentle insects are an **indicator of the health of local nature**.
- Butterflies: The **lava provide food** for birds and the butterflies are **pollinators**.
- Insects: **Lower on the food chain** encourage the whole eco-system to thrive.
- Dragonflies: **Sign of healthy wetlands** and ponds.
- Glow worms: magical to observe, good to know there are **dark areas** that support their life cycle.

Where they see these species

- Wall Brown Butterfly: Rare butterfly at **Hastings Nature Reserve**.
- Butterflies: **Rowland Reserve**.
- I've I record insects and even attracted a moth new to Britain to my **garden** in 2023.
- **South Downs**: Huge open area with an abundance of sensitive plants and insects. It's a fragile habitat with a long history.
- **Colington woodland walks**: Great place to take the grandchildren and search for insects and fauna.
- **Ashcombe Bottom**: Atmospheric in Winter, a haven for birds and insects in Summer.

What they've noticed

Species declines

- As an entomologist the most noticeable change in my lifetime is the **almost total loss** of Pearl-bordered, Small Pearl-bordered and High Brown Fritillary. The first two were present in almost every managed wood in East Sussex.
- Wart-biter bush cricket: It's **endangered** and the last of its sites are mostly in Sussex.
- **Decrease** in insect populations particularly butterflies, flies and beetles.
- A **sharp decline** in bee population.
- **Decrease** in bees/pollinators, fewer fruit on our cherry tree.
- **Definitely less** insects and bees.
- A **reduction in flying insects** - less splatter on the windscreen, less of a hum on a still summer day.
- Chalk grassland butterflies - **reduced abundance and absence** from former patches.

Pressures on these species

- Bees: Decline - **habitat loss, pesticides, invasive species**.
- Bees have suffered recently from **diseases and loss of habitat**.
- Beautiful to watch and their survival depends so much on the habitat.
- Decline in moths and other insects, which I attribute to increased use of **pesticides**.
- **Farmers using sprays** killing off all vegetation, no insect life.
- **Mono agriculture and use of herbicides and pesticides** had a negative effect on bee and insect populations last year- noticeable reduction.
- An entire verge of cinnabar moths was **crushed and mown** for 2 years in a row on Elphinstone Road, Hastings.

Species increase

- **Where farmers have had grants** to plant to encourage butterfly's and other insects, plus birds the results locally have been very positive.
- Dragonflies: **Appeared when I put a pond in**.
- Definite increase in **bees and butterflies** on the Dyke Road Railway path. No idea why but lovely to see.
- Increase in **Little Egret, goldfinch, hummingbird hawk moths**.
- The cemetery has been managed with longer grass areas and wild flowers and it has changed from trimmed lawns to **areas full of butterflies**.
- More **rare butterflies** returning to the area all over Sussex, **purple emperors** in Abbots wood, **White Admirals, Large Tortoiseshell** on the downs.

What respondents want to see happen

- **Increased awareness** about importance of biodiversity, and need to reduce carbon... **translated into action**.
- **More spaces being turned over to nature** eg grass verges being left unmown.
- In Lewes there's lots of bits of rough land that could be planted with plants [for] pollinators.
- Less use of pesticides herbicides and nitrogen.
- Please urge ESCC to desist from roadside spraying of weedkillers. Dandelions and other 'weeds' provide insects with much food. Insects need our help in the face of the impact of climate change to combat any other factor which will reduce their numbers.
- I want glyphosate...banned throughout the UK as it is poisonous for everything and its only purpose is to rid the land and water of life!! Get rid of it.

ES Qual: Reptiles

What respondents value

What they like most about these species		Wider benefits	Where they see these species
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fascinating and misunderstood. • Adders: Although I see them regularly at work, I still get a thrill when I find one basking, especially in a new location. • Adders: I always feel honoured to spot one of these secretive creatures. • Adders: They are striking and beautiful. • Lizards: Woodingdean was full of them in the 60's, so very much a strong association with my childhood. • Grass snakes: once common, so rarely seen now. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slow worms: They are beautiful, fascinating gentle creatures that live alongside us almost invisibly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slow worms: They indicate really healthy wild spaces. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ashdown Forest: Scarce birds, reptiles, insects, and open landscape to explore. • Urbans animals I see a lot- rabbits, foxes, sometimes adders at Southwick Hill.

What they've noticed

Species declines	Pressures on these species	Species increase (and issues)	What respondents want to see happen
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amphibians and reptiles have almost vanished from all the old places. • We used to have a snake in our garden as children, and a hedgehog but we haven't seen either for years. • We used to see Slow worms, grass snakes and glow worms quite often but not now for many years. • Generally see much less insects, reptiles and variety of birds. • We used to see Slow worms quite often. • Less reptiles. • I used to see hedgehogs and the occasional adder, but none for several years now. <p>31 Garden lizard back in 2007 I saw loads in the garden from about 2018 I have not seen any.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Snakes seem more prevalent. 	



ES Qual: Birds (excluding Birds of prey)

What respondents value

What they like most about these species

- Birds: **Easy to spot** and identify visually and from song.
- Birds: the only wild animals that really **make themselves known to us**.
- I **love blackbird song** so much I recorded it!
- Cormorant: **Lovely** sea bird.
- Curlew: Lovely **shape and call**.
- I find the presence of garden birds **uplifting and comforting**.
- Green woodpeckers: always pleased to spot a **flash of green** in the woods.
- Herring gulls: **Clever**, great parents, **in decline**.
- House martins: **Remarkable** red listed bird.
- Jackdaws: They have a lot of **personality**.
- Kingfisher: Very rare, but a glimpse is enough to **bring lasting joy**.
- Kittiwakes: They are **spectacular** to watch and listen to especially during the breeding season.
- Nightingale: **Endangered** and **wonderful song**.
- Nightjar: so different and kind of **otherworldly!**
- Oystercatchers: Another favourite for their **lovely plumage**.
- Robin: **life-affirming** signal of well-being.
- Skylark: Their flight and calls **lift the heart**.
- Starling: **Murmuration** above the piers.
- Swifts: **Thrilling** flight.

Wider benefits

- Birds: The **greater the diversity of birds the healthier the whole ecosystem**.
- Wren: They are the **measuring stick** as to the health of the environment.

Where they see these species

- **Bowl Water** is an internationally important gull roost with no nearby alternative.
- Cuckoo: Still reliably hear them at the **farm**.
- Fieldfares: They appear on the grasslands at **Bexhill front and Galley Hill** in Winter.
- Kingfisher: Beautiful to see them up the **River Ouse** in the winter.
- Nightingale: A few left in **Barcombe**.

What they've noticed

Species declines

- **Less** skylarks less birdsong of all types kess goldfinches, **less everything!!**
- Bird life has **dramatically decreased** since just I started living here 20 years ago. **Gone** are turtle doves, lesser spotted woodpecker, nightingale and farmland birds such as skylarks, yellowhammers and linnets.
- Colonies of house martins...are **now lost**.
- Swifts: They are in **major decline** and are Red Listed.
- A lot of species I remember from years ago are **no longer around**, mostly birds, most striking is no Cuckoos now heard in my local area.
- **Decreased amount** of birds in gardens despite efforts to encourage via planting and food.
- A **reduction** in the range of species of bird in the garden - where have the thrushes gone?

Pressures on these species

- **Pollution** on the beaches and in the water affect sea birds.
- All the **sheep** on Beacon Hill have destroyed a lot of larks nests.
- Definite decrease in the range and number of bird species due to **farming practices**.
- In 1981 when I had my son in the DGH I looked out at wonderful mass of birds on the wetland open fields below the hospital, **now all built on**.
- **Increased people and dogs** have impacted woodlands and flower meadows... with knock-on effect on birds, mammals etc
- **Less trees** therefore less birds as not enough nesting places.
- Almost total lack of birdlife in rural flailed hedgerows.

Species increase

- More **seagulls**.
- Increase in **pheasants** which have clearly escaped from an estate somewhere.
- Increases have been recent (last 2 years) more **birds**, butterflies and generally insects in my garden.
- Increase in **Little Egret, goldfinch**.
- More **white egret**.
- More birds on the downs, sometimes two breeding seasons.
- Our garden has many more birds since we stopped being so eager to cut our small lawn or clip our hedges.
- Increasing egrets: arrival of **nightingale** at Hope Gap.
- Sparrows have made a comeback. Thrushes seem more abundant.

What respondents want to see happen

- Swifts: we are at risk of losing them if we don't provide **more nesting opportunities**.
- **Pheasants need to be managed**.
- House Sparrows need hedges.
- I would love to see hedgehogs back



ES Qual: Birds of prey

What respondents value

What they like most about these species	Wider benefits	Where they see these species
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • So graceful. Good to see red kites are now in East Sussex. • So beautiful to watch the barn owl seeking food at sunset. • Buzzard: Graceful, majestic birds - beautiful to watch them hunting in pairs or alone over the downs. • Buzzard: It is a wonderful experience to witness a Buzzard in flight over the Golf course in Winter. • Common eagles: massive size and silent flight. • I like to hear to owl's hoot at night. It makes me feel magical. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key species in the ecosystem. • Speaks to a healthy and diverse set of fauna. • A sense that nature is in balance. • Honey buzzard: These are an indication of a good quality local ecology. • So striking and beautiful, it makes me think that the ecosystem is doing ok if it can support predators. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buzzard: Seen regularly near East Dean. • Red Kites: Seen more often in Brighton. • Red Kites: First spotted her in Bishopstone but she seems to have moved to near the church at Beddingham. Such a majestic creature. • Kestrels: Great to see these frequently on the South Downs. • Birds of prey is a white tailed eagle and lots of buzzards around Bewl Water.

What they've noticed

Species declines	Pressures on these species	Species increase	What respondents want to see happen
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less buzzards and birds of prey. • We used to have a lot of owls hooting around our house; there are almost none now, we think because of disappearance of their prey (mice, voles...). • Rarely ever see barn owls. • I see the Barn Owl less often. • FAR fewer bird species eg various finches, swifts, swallows, kestrels, skylarks, lapwings, cuckoo etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trees being cut down has removed homes for the owls. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More buzzards, kestrels and birds of prey. • Red kite: brought back from extinction. • More birds of prey like sparrowhawk but fewer owls than previous years. • Buzzards: There were none when we moved here 25 years ago. Now I see or hear them everyday. • Red Kites: Increased numbers since ban of DDT. • Kestrels seem to be doing well in our area which is not the case elsewhere in England. • I used to see only kestrels but now I see buzzards, peregrines, even the white-tailed eagle. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Owls are heritage birds and need protecting.



ES Qual: Small mammals (hedgehogs, rabbits, hares, rodents, beavers, voles, bats)

What respondents value

What they like most about these species

- Brown hare: I see them so rarely, when I do it is always a **massive treat**.
- Stoat: Not commonly seen, but a **superb animal**.
- Hedgehogs: Evokes British wildlife.
- Hedgehogs: They're in decline, but they're **such lovely little characters**.
- Hedgehogs: **Charismatic** and impacted by humans significantly.
- Hedgehogs: They're really **cute** and **interesting** to see.
- Mustelids: **Fun**, furry little psychopaths!
- Bats: Love seeing them **whizzing round my house** and out over the field at dusk
- Bats: Love seeing them **return from hibernation** each year and feed over the pond.
- Bats: Bats are **fascinating** species, and they're also night-time pollinators and mosquito control.
- Beavers: Are **important** for water ways.
- Rabbits and hares: I just love to see them in the environment.
- Squirrels: Like to watch their antics

Wider benefits

- Dormice: These special rodents also **indicate good habitat**.
- Hazel Dormice: Critically endangered; **important source of food** for owls and other predators.
- Water vole: They mean **water returning to good condition**.
- Hedgehogs: Help with **pest control**.
- Bats: Bats give an **indication of how many insects** are there
- Beavers: Rewilded and **better environmental managers** than humans

Where they see these species

- Dormice: still areas where they are actively breeding in **Hove**.
- Hedgehogs: Endangered and present in **Hamsey** and **Cooksbridge**
- Pipistrelle bat: **Benfield Valley Nature Reserve**

What respondents have noticed

Species declines

- Rabbits: Once very common, this species has **suffered serious decline**
- I **miss** seeing the hares.
- I **never see** hedgehogs or badgers locally now.
- **Used to be more** wild rabbits but don't see as many.
- **Never see** any hares.
- The rabbit population has declined drastically.
- Dormice: Their **population has dropped by 70%** since 2000 around the country.
- Hedgehogs: Becoming **extinct**.
- Hedgehogs: So **rare** sadly.
- Red Squirrel: In great danger of **extinction** in England. Very full of character.
- Water vole: They are **rare**.

Pressures on these species

- Less rabbits - sickness?
- **Constant developments on farmland** is exacerbating flooding across surrounding habitats with less smaller rodents, insects etc.
- Decrease in bats due to **lights**.
- Adders and Hazel Dormice have declined at Waterhall over recent years with **increases in commercial dog walking** on the site.
- Recent building work in a neighbouring property has meant the loss of bat population.
- Hedgehogs: Their living space is being taken over by **incessant building**.
- Hedgehogs: **killed by badgers**.
- Bats: **Roosts disappearing**

Species increase

- Many more **Grey Squirrels**.
- **Beavers** are a recent reintroduction, but knowing they were brought back after being hunted to extinction makes them national treasures.

What respondents want to see happen

- Dormice: Need to be **properly protected**.
- Hazel Dormice: requires **agricultural land to be rewilded** to protect them, which I would love to see (especially more woodland) as more Brits reduce their meat and dairy consumption
- **More habitats** for bats
- Bats especially rare Sussex bats eg Barbastelle, Bechstein and others **need more protection**.
- Folks need to create **Hedgehog highways** by making gaps in their garden fencing at ground level.... Hedgerow fruits/nuts should be left to grow to provide food for wild creatures.

ES Qual: Fish & Marine species

What respondents value

What they like most about these species		Wider benefits	Where they see these species
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sea anemones: Magical and fascinating. Exotic! Wildlife in Rockpools: Fascinating to watch Porpoises: Joyful sight when they are playing off Splash Point in a crimson sunset. Common seals: wildlife you can see and hear and sometimes they're inquisitive and interactive. Sometime lucky enough to see shoals of fish. Grey and harbour seals on the Rother: So unexpected! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seals: Because they can be elusive but beautiful to watch. Good to know that the seagrass is being protected along with other marine zones off the coast. Sea cabbage: Like to see it thriving. Sea Kale: Hardy. Dolphins: A rare treat to see them on our coastline Dolphins: So excited to see footage of them, when there are spotted on the coast. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Historic Kelp beds: They absorbed carbon, filtered the water and protected the coast from storms. Seals: It indicates that the sea is healthy. Dolphins: guessing that means that there is plenty of food for them to eat and that our seas are in a healthy(ish) state. Fish in our rivers are a real asset if we can clean up their habitats. Sea Kale: Provides food for other insects and sea habitat. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seals: Occasionally sighted at Cuckmere Haven and in the sea – magic Snakelock anemone: I saw one off Burling Gap - sign of clean water (not that there's much of that left anymore). Marine species like tope sharks are only seen in the HMPA. Lancing Beach: The best place when the tide is out for a long walk along the coast to bird, seal and fish watch! Hope Gap: rockpools to explore. Also dolphins and porpoises spotted in the area!

What they've noticed

Species declines	Pressures on these species	Species increase	What respondents want to see happen
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Less fish, more loss of endangered fish species, decline of water quality, over abstract water concentrated pollution. Talking to local fishers also there has been a noticeable decline in large fish species. Rock pools don't have as much diversity of species in them. There has been decimation of lobsters in the local area... once were plentiful now lucky to find when snorkelling east of Marina. Baseline Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre reports for severe reduction in endangered fish species from Barcombe to Shortbridge Stream... urgent action needed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More dead dolphins due to the super trawlers that are allowed in our waters. More sewage dumped and Seaford beach which seems to have reduced the water wildlife seems like less fish near the beach. Small fishes have gone from the stream near to the Cuckoo trail now that the fields have been built on. Bottlenose dolphin - threats through decreased fish stocks, bycatch and pollution. Silt dredging in marina has impacted on local rockpools - which are being filled up with mud/silt. Fish: Very concerned about local water pollution and industrial fishing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seen increase in marine life. Marine habitats improving as trawling stopped. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sea trout spawning streams and watercourses. Cleaner rivers and sea for species and wild swimming. Species such as sea trout need fish bridges and cleaned up rivers to link to Ashdown Forest through Shortbridge Stream and Batts Bridge Stream Stop water companies polluting the rivers and sea.



ES Qual: Plants & fungus

What respondents value

What they like most about these species		Wider benefits	Where they see these species
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Love identifying plants and observing them over their life cycle. Always more to learn. • Lesser celandine: Carpets of bright yellow stars herald the spring. • Plants: I love greenery as well as the different flowers of all colours, shapes and sizes. • Echium pinana: Amazing flowers spikes. • Horseshoe Vetch: the symbiotic relationship the flower, ants and adonis blue have. • Trees: Marvel at their age and wildlife they support • Trees: Walking amongst them is relaxing. • Bee orchids: Like jewels in the grass. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fly agaric: iconic colourful mushroom to brighten autumn. • Horse Chestnut Trees: I love seeing conkers in the autumn. • Oaks: Wonderful native habitat rich in biodiversity, historically important. • Round headed rampion: Pride of Sussex. • Wood Anemone: a carpet of white in early spring is as or even more spectacular • Bluebells: Amazing and smell divine on a sunny day • Devil's-bit Scabious: pretty flower, alive with bees on sunny autumn days 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colourful plants at the coast: Brings in tourism & is great for locals. • Ragwort isn't a well-liked nor wanted plant, but it's the most visited flower in the UK by pollinators. • Trees: lungs of the earth, Carbon capture. • Lichen: Health giving, great for oxygenation. • Hazel coppice: Sign of managed lowland woodland = more diversity. • Hawthorn. Provides food and shelter for wildlife and beautiful to look at in Spring. • Wildflowers: If allowed to grow they are amazing for pollinators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bladderwort: a fascinating plant, sometimes seen in Combe Valley Countryside Park. • Wood anemone: Signify ancient woodland at Ditchling Common. • Spiked Rampion: One of the UKs rarest wildflowers and only found in East Sussex. • Pyramid orchids and moon carrots. Found on Seaford Head. Very beautiful to see. • The Valley Gardens project in Brighton sees more flowers, insects and birds into the centre of the city. • Bluebells: Markstake Common woods

What they've noticed

Species declines	Pressures on these species	Species increase	What respondents want to see happen
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saw less orchids on the Downs this year. • Lots of plant species that were once common becoming less or much less common. This is backed up by distribution data (Flora of Sussex). • Reduction in ground flora, particularly within woodland habitats. • Decrease of large urban trees in my neighbourhood. • Fewer bluebells. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trees and plants suffering from climate change, impact from increase in humans. • I've seen woodlands recover in the 60s from having been clear felled in WW2 and their subsequent devastation by deer. • Some areas such as Hobbseares have been allowed to overgrow losing chalkland grass species early spider orchid and rampion. • Trees dying due to disease with water stress, too dry in summer too wet in winter. • Long, hot, dry summers have devastated many species of wild orchid.. • Deciduous trees not replaced after storms. • Mowing of verges while orchids are in flower was particularly heartbreaking last summer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cowslips: due to the scarcity of these once common plants, it's great to see them thrive in Sussex. • Pleased to see more cowslips on the verges, and tree management in Stanmer woods. • Increase in some plant species eg Alexanders, Common nettle, Hemlock water-dropwort... they are outcompeting less competitive species which are becoming locally rarer. • More wildflowers by roads and in paths. • More wildflower strips in farmland. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our verges should be planted with wildflowers and properly tended, not left uncared for and then killed off with weed killer that ruins the soil for wildflowers. • Cut and collect system for wildlife verges, to break the nitrogen cycle. • Please don't shy away from the deer issue we have in Sussex! • I would like to see a lot more emphasis on encouraging wildlife at a local, street level. Street flower planters, trees and bushes or even small hedges. • More trees and bushes on new estates, maintenance on existing trees on older ones. • Need to plant more trees.





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Sussex Nature Recovery

A collective blueprint for targeted action

About respondents

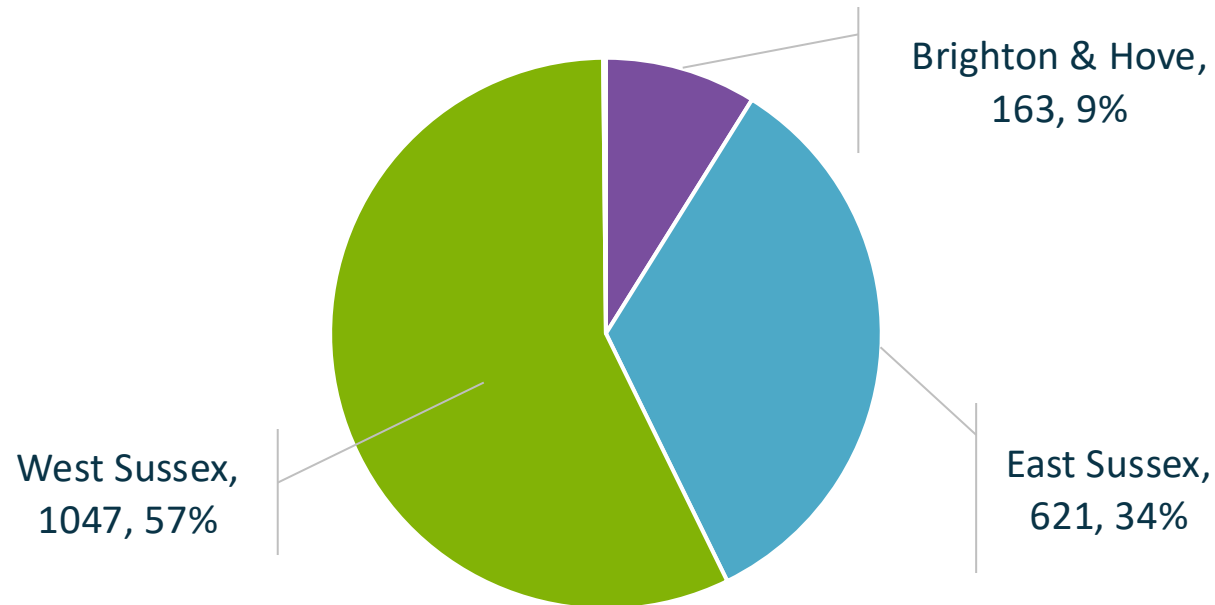
SussexNatureRecovery.org.uk



Where do responders live?

The survey asks responders to tell us the county area they live in to determine which LNRS their responses can be attributed to. Out of 1,834 respondents, 3 did not provide a county within the LNRS areas and 8 did not provide a district.

Which County?



Which District?

District	Responses	Percentage
Adur & Worthing	172	9%
Arun	193	11%
Brighton & Hove	163	9%
Chichester	191	10%
Crawley	81	4%
Eastbourne	99	5%
Hastings	47	3%
Horsham	203	11%
Lewes	229	12%
Mid Sussex	204	11%
Rother	122	7%
Wealden	122	7%
No response	8	
Total	1,834	

Respondents' age, ethnicity, disability and ability to access nature

Age	West Sussex	East Sussex	Brighton & Hove
<i>Average age (based on census data)</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>38</i>
18-30	2%	2%	6%
31-45	9%	11%	27%
46-60	30%	29%	44%
61-75	45%	45%	21%
76+	13%	11%	1.8%
Under 18	0.6%	0.5%	0%

Details from census data included in red to help gauge if responses are aligned.

Disability status	West Sussex	East Sussex	Brighton & Hove
<i>% of pop with a disability (census data)</i>	<i>17%</i>	<i>21%</i>	<i>19%</i>
Yes	14%	17%	9%
Prefer not to say	4%	3.7%	2%

Ethnicity	West Sussex	East Sussex	Brighton & Hove
<i>% of pop that's white (census data)</i>	<i>91%</i>	<i>86%</i>	<i>85%</i>
White	91%	92%	90%
Mixed or multiple ethnic groups	0.7%	0.8%	4%
Prefer not to say/no response	7%	4.3%	3.6%
Asian or British Asian	0.2%	0.3%	0.6%
Other (please specify)	1%	2.1%	2%
Black, Black British, Caribbean or African	0.5%	0%	0%

Ability to access nature currently	West Sussex	East Sussex	Brighton & Hove
Yes - Within easy walking distance	83%	85%	85%
Yes - Within further walking/cycling distance	40%	36%	44%
Yes - Within a longer drive/take public transport	50%	40%	44%
No, I can't access nature easily	5%	6%	6%



Where responders enjoy nature currently

Responders were given a menu of options and asked to tick any that applied. This question aimed to encourage responders to think about the different kinds of places where nature can be found beyond those where it is expected such as Nature Reserves, to help them get in the right mind set to answer other survey questions.

- Within Brighton & Hove, local parks and other public green spaces are the second most popular places to experience nature in. For residents of West and East Sussex, the second most popular

	West Sussex	East Sussex	Brighton & Hove
Larger natural areas such as nature reserves, lakes, rivers, woodlands, National Parks / National Landscapes	88%	89%	93%
Your garden, land or allotment	87%	87%	78%
Along public footpaths, bridleways or byways	81%	77%	74%
The beach, harbour areas or in/on the sea	73%	80%	86%
Local parks and other public green spaces	73%	73%	89%
Heritage/cultural sites including churchyards and National Trust properties	66%	67%	70%
Around your neighbourhood, in front of buildings	58%	62%	57%
Sports/leisure facilities	16%	20%	19%

