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Sussex Nature Recovery

A collective blueprint for targeted action

Those active in nature's recovery: Interim survey results

July 2024 – based on 85 responses

SussexNatureRecovery.org.uk



Introduction

What are Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) for Sussex?

LNRS are a new system of spatial plans for nature from the Environment Act 2021. 48 strategies are being prepared at the county level to cover the whole of England. There will be one LNRS for West Sussex and one for East Sussex and Brighton & Hove.

LNRS aim to identify the best opportunities to create or improve habitats and support species recovery where this can have the most benefit to wildlife and people. They are being developed through a collaborative process that engages residents, community groups, landowners/managers and organisations.

About Survey respondents

'Those active in nature's recovery' includes community groups, local councils, NGOs and others. This group is an important stakeholder for LNRS as they have existing priorities and projects for nature, as well as on-the-ground knowledge and experience. As such, they can have a key role in delivering the measures identified by the strategies. In March 2024, a bespoke [webinar](#) for this group outlined the ways they can participate.

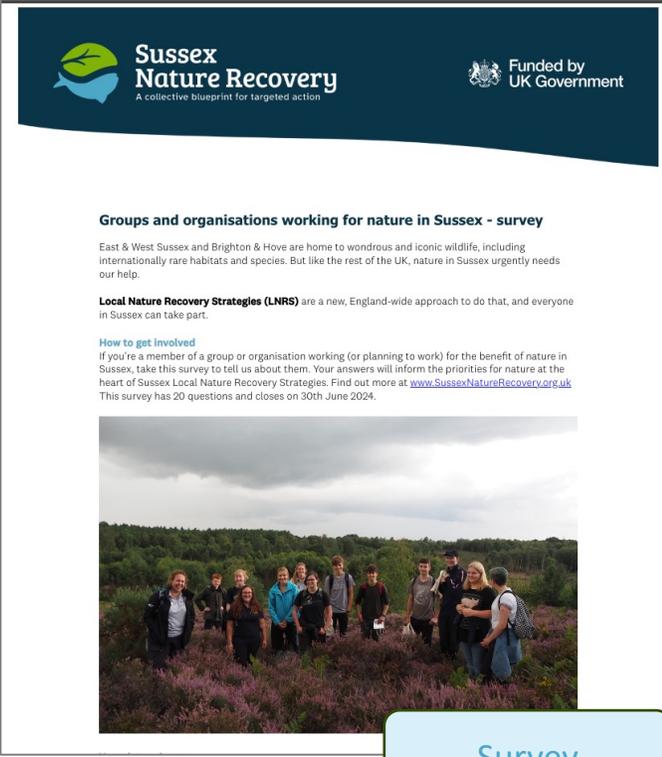
About this document

A [survey](#) launched in February 2024 (and closes in October) to canvas what those already working in nature's recovery on the ground think is important, and to hear about their projects and plans.

This interim view of results was created on 29th July when the survey had 85 responses. It provides a snapshot of the interests and activities of respondent organisations and groups.

Next steps – Mapping actions for nature

Survey responses will inform Sussex LNRS priorities for nature's recovery and the measures that can be taken to deliver them. Organisations and groups active in nature's recovery are also encouraged to add any planned or implemented projects to the new [Map your actions for nature tool](#) to provide a spatial view of where efforts and opportunities are concentrated.



Sussex Nature Recovery
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Groups and organisations working for nature in Sussex - survey

East & West Sussex and Brighton & Hove are home to wondrous and iconic wildlife, including internationally rare habitats and species. But like the rest of the UK, nature in Sussex urgently needs our help.

Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) are a new, England-wide approach to do that, and everyone in Sussex can take part.

How to get involved
If you're a member of a group or organisation working (or planning to work) for the benefit of nature in Sussex, take this survey to tell us about them. Your answers will inform the priorities for nature at the heart of Sussex Local Nature Recovery Strategies. Find out more at www.SussexNatureRecovery.org.uk. This survey has 20 questions and closes on 30th June 2024.

[Survey](#)



OpenStreetMap | ESRI World View

Filters | Selection

Selected Projects | Clear Selection

Buxted Park

Status:	Completed
Lead organisation:	Ouse & Adur Rivers Trust
Nature recovery actions:	Creating new habitat/Other
Habitats delivered against:	Modified grassland/Rivers and streams
Nature based solutions	Biodiversity / bio-abundance

[Map Your Actions tool](#)

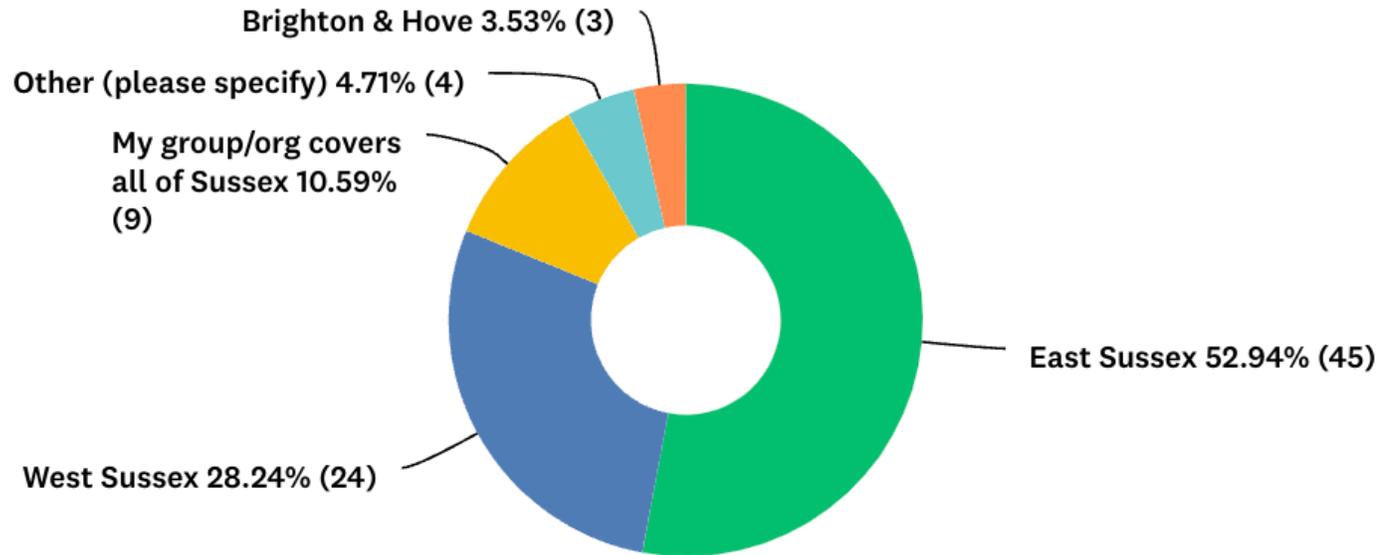


About respondents

85 organisations/groups had completed the survey by 29.7.24

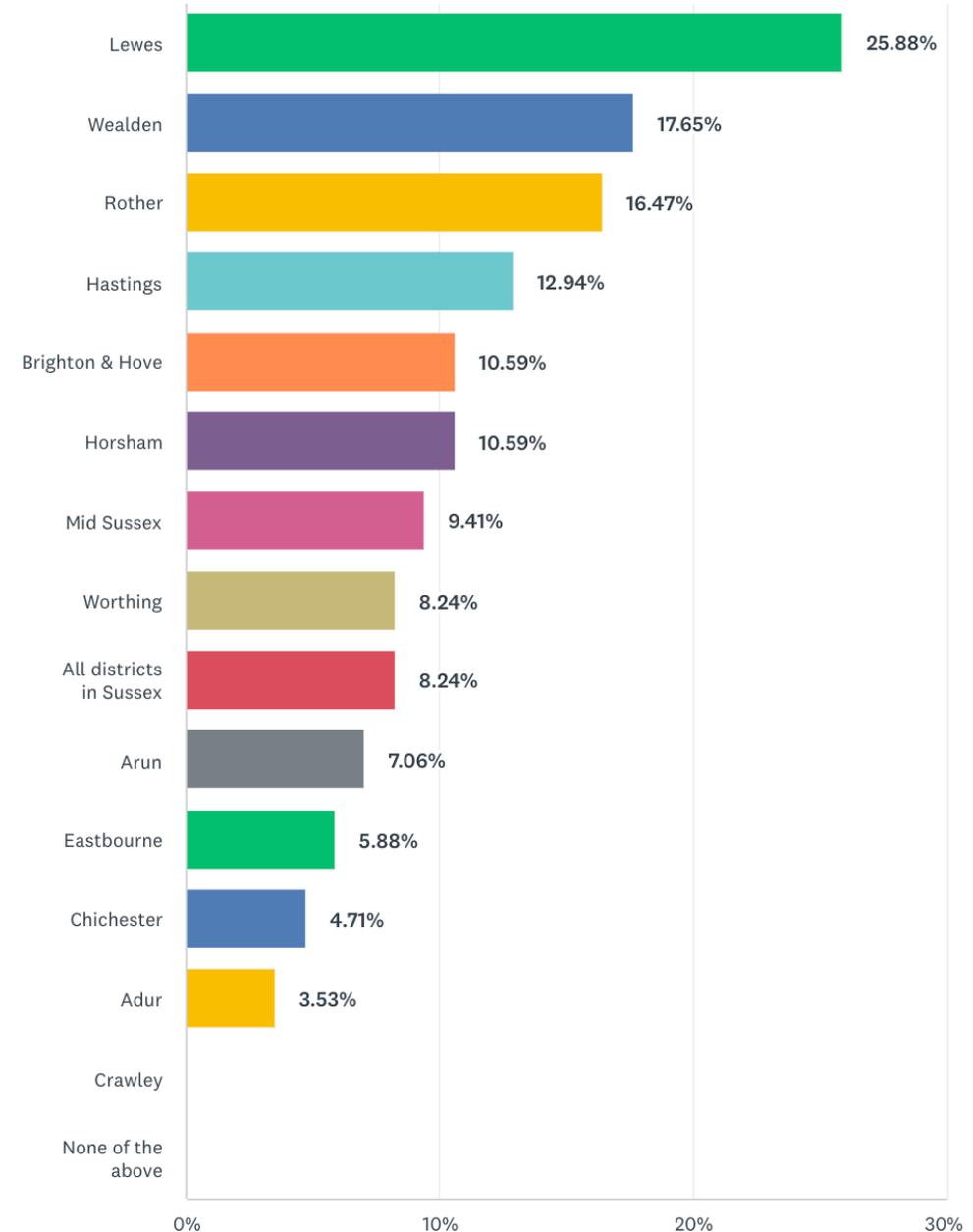
Charity/NGO (18% of total)	Community Group (49% of total)			Council (18% of total)	Partnership (2% of total)	Other (8% of total)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPRE Sussex • East Sussex Wildlife Rescue • East Sussex WRAS • Hastings Kelp Project • High Weald Swifts • Groundwork South: Hastings and Rother: Combe Valley Team • New England Wood Trust • Newt Conservation Partnership • Plot 22 • Powdermill Trust for Nature Conservation • Seaford Action for Nature CIO • Sussex Ornithological Society • Tottington Woodlanders • Western Sussex Rivers Trust (previously ARRT) • Woodland Trust 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barcombe Community Wildlife Group • Battle for Trees • Bexhill Friends of the Down • Burgess Hill Swift Supporters • Breathing Spaces (Worthing Transition Town) • Chailey Commons Society • Crowborough Wildlife Group • Eastbourne Regional SWT Group • Ferring Conservation Group • Friends of Bewl Water • Friends of Brandy Hole Copse • Friends of Combe Valley (2 responses) • Friends of Heene Cemetery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friends of Markstakes Common • Friends of Old Bridge Meadow • Friends of Polegate Jubilee NR • Friends of Seaford Dewpond • Greener Amberley (3 x responses) • Growing Hollingdean • Hastings Food Network • Hedgehogs4Hailsham • Lewes Swift Supporters • Lewes Urban Arboretum • Plastic Free Seaford • Seaford Natural History Society • Shoreham District Ornithological Society • Shoreham District Ornithological Society • Slaugham Angling Club • Transition Town Worthing CIC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Wellerness CIC • The Woodland, Flora & Fauna Group • Transition Town Worthing CIC • Wild about Burbrush • Wild About Warnham • Wild Groombridge • Wild Wadhurst • Woodingdean Wilderness Club • Worthing Conservation Volunteers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amberley PC • Angmering PC • Arun DC • Ashington PC • Hamsey PC • Henfield PC • Kingston PC • Lewes TC • Northiam PC Nature Restoration Group • Peacehaven TC (Two entries) • Ringmer PC • Telscombe TC • Ticehurst PC • Uckfield TC • Wadhurst PC • Wisborough Green Parish <p>PC = Parish Council TC = Town Council DC = District Council</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lewes Climate Hub • Lost Woods Project <div data-bbox="1895 534 2168 654" style="background-color: #76b82a; color: white; text-align: center; padding: 5px; font-weight: bold;"> Business (4% of total) </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friendly Fox Design • Savills • Tree Tents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combe Valley Countryside Park • Eastbourne Downland Group • Kent & East Sussex Railway • Saltdean Climate Action Network (SCAN) • Sussex Botanical Recording Society • University of East London, Sustainability Research Institute • Uni of Sussex/UK Environmental Law Association

Where they are based

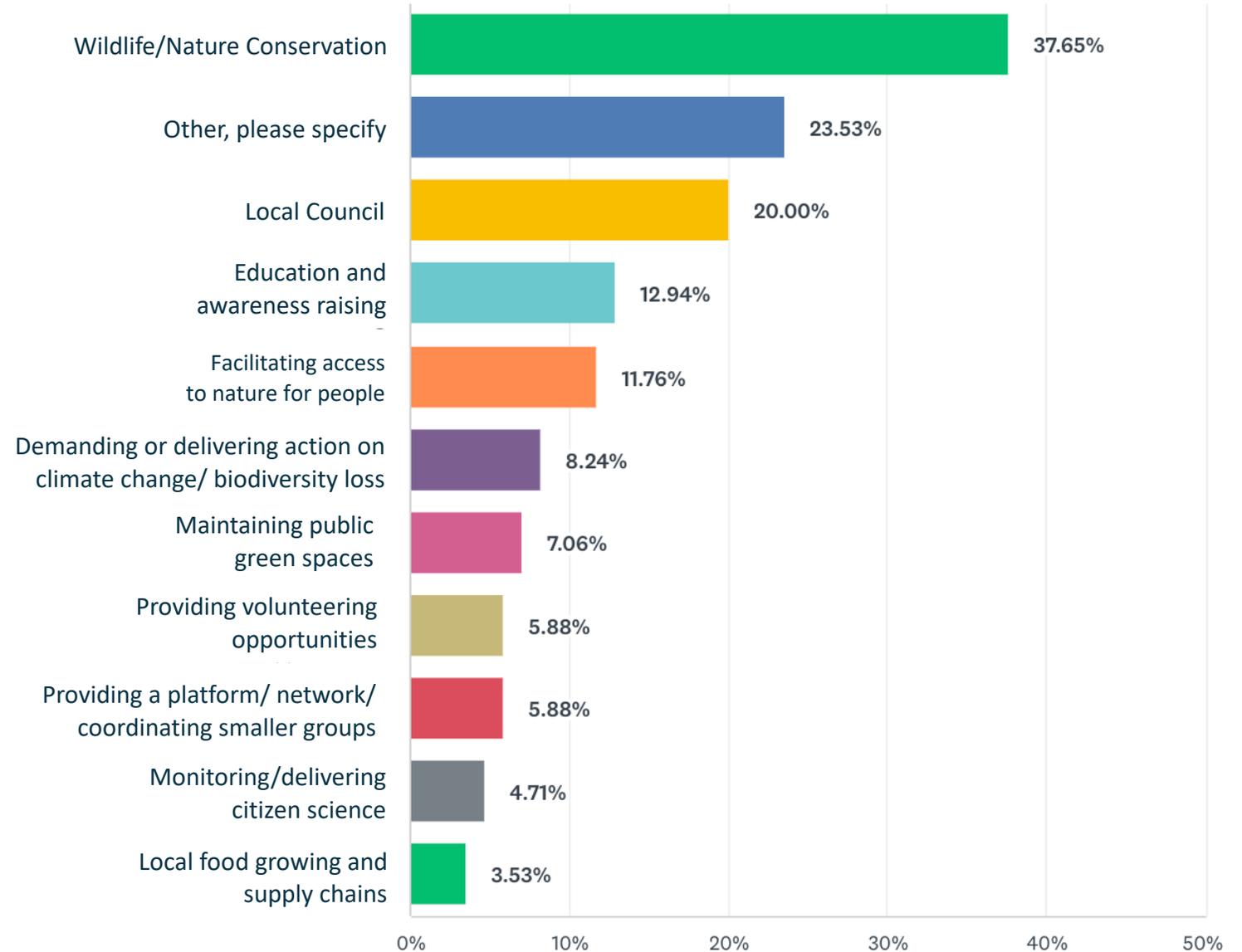


Other:

- Low Weald
- East Sussex and Brighton & Hove
- London
- St Leonards



Primary purpose



**The habitats, species and places
respondents are concerned with**



Q: Are there any **habitats your group or organisation would like to see improved or created in your local area? If so, tell us up to 3 habitats you're concerned with and why. If none, leave blank.**

Habitat type (195 habitats provided)	% of mentions
• Woodland	19%
• Riverine including chalk streams	13%
• Water bodies (lakes, ponds etc)	12%
• Urban (inc verges and routeways)	10%
• Hedgerows	10%
• Wetlands	6%
• Meadows	6%
• Coastal & Marine	5%
• Chalk habitats (inc chalk grassland)	5%
• Grassland	4%
• Farmland	3%
• Heathland	2%
• Local Nature Reserves or mixed habitats	2%
• Corridors	1%
• Scrubland	1%
• All habitats	1%
• Dark skies	1%



Reasons why a habitat is a priority to respondents (1/4)

Habitat	Reason (sample of comments)	Habitat	Reason (sample of comments)
Woodland (including ancient woodland) (19%)	<p>Their Importance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vital hubs of ecosystems yet under mapped & vulnerable Our richest irreplaceable habitat yet vastly eroded Priority habitat provides habitat for bats and dormice Of wet woodland - A complex important habitat often undervalued 34 trees on the National Tree Register <p>The need for more of this habitat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of planting over many years, loss of habitat for birds and animals At risk - project purpose to protect and expand <p>The need for better habitat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better management of gills, dead wood and light demanding species. Our area is rich in woodland, most of it could be better managed for wildlife with relatively simple measures. Ash trees have colonised former chalk grassland since c1950, but now all dying; the woodland needs to be cleared and replaced with other suitable habitats. Supporting natural regeneration, boosting wildlife, habitat management and some re-planting after ash die back and elm felling in a small community woodland. Although Sussex holds much protected Ancient Woodland, not all woodland falls into this category and many are in poor condition with impoverished biodiversity due to invasive rhododendron, deer damage, lack of active management etc... Targeted action aligned with LNRS priority species would benefit Nightingales, Turtle Doves and many other species. <p>The need for more joined up habitat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To expand and connect existing woodlands Protect connectivity in landscape terms, extend existing woodlands by big margins, expanding woodland coverage and protect mature and old woodlands 	Riverine including chalk streams (13%)	<p>Their Importance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Of chalk streams - Internationally important and rare habitat <p>The need for more of this habitat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sussex has lost most of its large lowland freshwater wetlands leading to impoverished biodiversity in these landscapes. Some efforts have been made to improve and restore former wetlands, such as in the Arun valley... Restoring and improving wetland habitats is going to be very important in ensuring ecological resilience in a changing climate. <p>The need for better habitat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To improve the health of rivers and streams to support fish, eels, water voles, invertebrates, etc The Grom is polluted by sewage and possibly agricultural run-off; its wildlife is seriously depleted. Amberley wild brooks is in a failing state. Eel, trout used to be abundant species in The Ouse, Shortbridge Stream and Batts Bridge Stream, into the Ashdown Forest. Many rivers have become channelised, over deepened, non-diverse 'canals'. Want to see rivers return to natural processes, diverse habitats then created within water and nearby. Poor water quality and poor management of habitat Monitoring through Love your Ouse project - protect banks and associated flora / fauna, control of Himalayan balsam, agricultural run-off. <p>The need for more joined up habitat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Important wildlife corridors, encroachment by development leading to loss in biodiversity and increase in flooding. The Adur borders our village and is an important nature corridor.

Reasons why a habitat is a priority to respondents(2/4)

Habitat	Reason (sample of comments)	Habitat	Reason (sample of comments)
<p>Water bodies including lakes, ponds etc (12%)</p>	<p>Their Importance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Eastbourne Downland has a high density of dew ponds, which provide the only aquatic habitat on chalk, but most are now dry. • Valuable resource for aquatic life, breeding insects and other wildlife • Our bodies of water need protecting as much as possible - for biodiversity, oxygen emissions (e.g. seagrass), wild swimming etc. <p>The need for better habitat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Of freshwater ponds - Problems with invasive weeds • Pond at Jardin D'Auber Wadhurst - This pond could be improved to provide habitat. We need help to form a credible plan of action. • To increase suitability for breeding great crested newts. • Abundant, but many are heavily shaded/in poor condition. • Silting up due to poor management if adjacent property. • Our group have spent 11 years creating & maintaining a woodland pond and enhancing wildlife survival prospects in and around the surrounding countryside... Habitat destruction through advancing development is a major threat to this success. • Threat from development at waterside. • Currently unmanaged for wildlife and in need of some maintenance and enhancement to aid nature recovery and encourage aquatic species. 	<p>Urban (10%)</p>	<p>Their Importance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good for people and wildlife (we already have 3 mini orchards) <p>The need for more of this habitat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our group have spent 17 years steadily creating & maintaining a barn owl conservation area reliant on surrounding habitat across southern Mid Sussex. It is constantly inspected and maintained with all breeding success and population numbers recorded. Habitat reduction through development threats are a major threat to this achievement. • Urban trees - We need to increase canopy cover for climate resilience • Of grass verges - A valuable biodiversity opportunity being steadily lost due to being tarmac over for access to paved over front gardens <p>The need for better habitat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing risk of wildlife (particularly hedgehogs) being killed on the road • Education on the need for garden trees • Raising awareness of wildlife friendly gardens and hedgehog highways <p>More joined up habitat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roadside verges and grass triangles - To improve biodiversity, increasing wildlife corridors

Reasons why a habitat is a priority to respondents (3/4)

Habitat	Reason (sample of comments)	Habitat	Reason (sample of comments)
Hedgerows (10%)	<p>Their Importance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hedgerows consist of trees and shrubs which provide habitat for nesting birds and other wildlife while providing a windbreak and shelter in between different environments. <p>The need for more of this habitat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To protect existing hedgerows, encourage new hedgerows, dead hedges or laid hedging and increase awareness of the importance of hedgerows to wildlife and as wildlife corridors Loss of habitat when above are lacking and trees being felled for no reason <p>The need for better habitat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most of Warnham's hedges receive little management other than an annual thrashing with a flail, leaving gappy hedges with no base. The timing of cutting is also adversely affecting the Brown Hairstreak butterfly, whose eggs overwinter on Blackthorn and which are decimated by poorly timed and/or unnecessary flailing Ensuring that brush cutters and lawn mowers are not used before checking and that log piles / wildlife friendly areas are created <p>The need for more joined up habitat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide green corridors for wildlife To connect existing and new woodlands Increase connectivity between greenspaces (acts as mini woodland) To increase connectivity Increase biodiversity, encourage birds and linking up nature/wildlife corridors Vitally important in connecting up habitats, have been removed by some landowners. 	Wetlands (6%)	<p>Their Importance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support diverse wildlife and hold water: prevent flooding, hold carbon We manage the Bogs Field nature reserve in Hooe Common, the only such site left in the east of Sussex which hasn't been drained. Some of the plants we monitor are found nowhere else in this part of the county. Of fenland, reedbed, and flood meadows - Nationally threatened priority habitats. High biodiversity and nutrient remediation value. <p>The need for more or better habitat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> scope for wetland creation (all scale) There is potential for improvement of a local nature reserve to include a wetland/saltmarsh. neglected for years <p>The need for more joined up habitat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roadside verges/triangles - To improve biodiversity, increasing corridors
	Meadows (6%)		<p>Their importance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To improve diversity and support insects, bees and pollinators More diversity of flowers in general to increase biodiversity from that level of the food chain to help insects multiply, to feed the insectivorous birds <p>The need for more or better habitat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In serious decline In common with much of the rest of the UK, Warnham has lost virtually all its flower-rich meadows. Whilst it would be probably unrealistic to expect large areas of meadow to be recreated/restored, the current large expanses of field margins could provide a valuable habitat... We maintain species-rich meadows at Wainwright Close (St Leonards) and at Rotherfield, in the hope that the flowers here will be able to recolonise surrounding countryside.

Reasons why a habitat is a priority to respondents (4/4)

Habitat	Reason (sample of comments)	Habitat	Reason (sample of comments)
Coastal/Marine (5%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saltmarsh: Declining priority habitat • Chalk wave cut platform: Affected by pollution, global warming and fishing • The beach consists of an area of vegetated shingle with a significant population of Sea Kale and a number of other shingle specialists such as Yellow Horned Poppy, Spear-leaved Orache and Sea Beet. The sandstone cliffs provide homes for a number of mining bees and other insects some of which are nationally scarce. • Kelp/seagrass – for biodiversity and carbon. 	Farmland (3%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cut back this year by a new tenant farmer. Loss of wildlife, loss of enjoyment as he ploughed footpaths too • Threat of development, potential for wilding & connectivity • Birds characteristic of arable land have declined sharply due to changes in farming practices (see e.g. 'Farming and Birds', Newton, 2017). In Sussex, measures to improve arable land for birds including Corn Bunting have been shown to work, e.g. on the Duke of Norfolk's land at The Burgh.
Chalk habitats (5%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By far the most characteristic and important habitat of the South Downs but declined by 97% since the 1940s. • Important and declining habitat - needs protecting • We are surrounded by National Park yet many people feel disconnected to it because of land use. • Recovery and enhancement of habitats to support pollinators, invertebrates, birds and provide carbon sinks in urban area. 	Heathland (3%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management is needed to recover and enhance wildlife value • So much lost nationally – opportunities for improving locally (Crowborough Common) • Exceptional biodiversity.
Grassland (4%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildflower grassland - Attracts beneficial insects • Decline of wildflowers and wildlife • So much has been lost, there is a lot of it in and around Crowborough but almost none is managed correctly • To rebuild biodiversity in corridor between RSPB reserve and village that's been reduced by decades of farming • Grassland and scrub - For the terrestrial life stages of Great Crested Newts 	Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dark skies - To educate about the importance of dark skies for human and wildlife, manage lighting in the community in a way that benefits wildlife, human health and and stargazing opportunities • Habitats of principle importance - Functional connectivity and mosaic of habitat linking corridors protected, restored, created (mosaic important for all wildlife listed on SPI) • Orchards - Significant historic loss in the parish. We are working to restore ancient orchards with their exceptional habitat benefits and create new areas of fruit trees.

Q: Are there any **species** your group or organisation would like to see recovered in your local area? (1/4)

Species	Reasons (sample)
Amphibians	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beneficial for fruit and a sign of functioning habitat
Bats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bechstein's Bat – very rare species. Initial projects successful at increasing species but now under threat from increasing development All species of bats appear to be declining at an alarming rate and this is an indication of the loss of natural habitat. In 2008 we began a bat conservation project covering major woodlands in the Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common Parish... Very successful but now under threat.
Beavers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We actively support keystone species being reintroduced They 'slow the flow'
Bees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Declining bee populations generally Potter flower Bee - Rare solitary bee found at Seaford Head Long horned bee - so vulnerable. Associated with good meadows Beneficial for fruit and a sign of functioning habitat For pollination of wildflowers and trees
Birds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brent Geese - Help overwintering populations Common gulls and Black headed gulls - threat from human disturbance to gull roosts Corn Bunting - Birds characteristic of arable land have declined sharply due to changes in farming practices Grey Partridge, as well as other fauna and flora. Dunlin - Under pressure from human disturbance Jay - Very rare to see this bird locally in woods but common in the past Lapwing - National decline and local roosting sites built on Marsh Tit - Warnham has lost several key woodland bird species in the last 2 to 3 decades – e.g. Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Willow Tit, Spotted Flycatcher. Nightjar - Flagship species. we are improving nesting habitat. Skylark - Ground nesting bird typical of chalk grassland. Starlings - Visibly reduced numbers during numerations. Spotted flycatchers - Red-listed, but present in the village Swallows – fewer ever year
Butterflies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cardamine Bulbifeira - Rare but we have in dispersed sites through the parish Adonis Blue - In many places scrub encroachment is reducing populations larval food plants such as Horseshoe Vetch Chalk Hill - Characteristic species of true chalk grassland. Grassland butterfly pops declined by 1/3 in last 10 years. Peacock, Red Admiral, Comma butterflies - Less common anywhere locally than the past - lack of stinging nettles?

Are there any **species** your group or organisation would like to see recovered in your local area? (2/4)

Species	Reason (sample of comments)
Dormice (specifically Hazel)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have been found locally. Habitats are ideal on the corridor. • Under continuing and increasing threat due to loss of suitable woodland and hedgerow habitat. • Present in the park. Rare and protected species. • Hugely endangered species, present in Combe Valley. Apex species. We would like to manage areas of the park for this species: putting in diverse, native hedgerows is helpful, as is monitoring • Protect long established woodland and linear habitats for this species as per DEFRA Keepers of our Time policy 2022.
Eels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eels - Decline in populations • Eels – Used to live in Grom, but no longer • Collapse of water ecosystem has depleted abundant fish species in less than ten years in Ashford Forest. • Eels, their migration depends on these linked waterways
Fen Raft Spider	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This was spotted for the first time in 2023, and it is hoped to develop appropriate habitats for it along Combe Haven • have spread from Pevensey levels but a stable population would be good • There have been confirmed sightings of this rare spider in Combe Valley, making this only the 4th site in the UK where there rare spiders are found. We would like to improve an area of Tall Fen habitat (under ESCC ownership in Combe Valley CP) to hopefully secure the presence of this species • Very rare protected species which has been identified in the three bridges flood meadow habitat. Its presence and abundance is a measure of the condition of the surrounding wetland habitats.
Great crested newt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parish is a red zone for species. Indicative of good ponds. • Once common on Downs, declined due to loss of dew ponds. • Protected species, declining • Struggling to survive due to habitat loss and current fashion to tidy up gardens etc
Hedgehogs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Widespread but scarce. Species local community can get involved with conserving in gardens • Natural pest control • Hedgehogs are endangered and we are killing them by enclosing our gardens and not giving them sufficient space to find enough food • Concreting over of gardens, use of Roundup and similar, over use of slug pellets • In decline
House Martins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red-listed • Decline in breeding numbers • There used to be lots of nests and last year only 1 or 2 • very few nests around, lack of mud if too hot

Are there any **species** your group or organisation would like to see recovered in your local area? (3/4)

Species	Reason (sample of comments)
Insects & invertebrates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wart Biter - we have one of only 6 sites in the country! • Vitally important, but in massive decline • Overuse of Roundup and similar. • For pollination. Food for Swifts, bats and other birds • Glow worms - Vulnerable / rare • Grizzled Skipper - The lack of invertebrates/insects is a major problem as these underpin the foodchain for other species, and also many insects play a crucial role in pollination of crops and flowers. A rare species such as the Grizzled Skipper can serve as a flagship or indicator species. • food for birds and bats declining
Kelp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vital carbon sink and increased biodiversity would show a healthy marine environment
Marsh Harrier	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is one of a number of birds which visit every year, attracted by the flood meadows and adjacent reed beds. • Rare species present in the park. Its presence and abundance speaks to the ecological condition of the of the wetland habitats. As a large predator, its presence serves as a proxy for the abundance of other prey species. • Present in the mixed scrub/wet woodland grazing marshes of Combe Valley. If this bird is protected then so too are the other species inhabiting Combe Valley
Trees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For biodiversity, clean air, prevent flooding, health • Shortage, need to generate increased biodiversity • A group of self seeded 15-50 year old oaks in an area long used as common land but now under imminent threat of housing development, presumably naturally developed fungal links underground. Area may have been once been oak forests cut down for Newhaven boatbuilding, so these few oaks could be descendants.
Nightingales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sussex holds c20% of UK's breeding Nightingales, c 1k of 5,550 singing males (see Smith & Twydell 2023. Sussex Bird Report, 268-274). The species is classified under IUCN GB as Threatened, has specialised habitat requirements that often lie outside designated sites and require appropriate management. A connected approach to deliver new habitat within the existing Nightingale distribution will help maintain resilient breeding populations. • They are present east of Northiam - scope to the west • Previously more numerous • Under threat from development
Owls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barn Owls - some near Northiam - scope for more? • We have recently promoted and supported a project to increase Barn Owls in the area supported by Sussex Barn Owl Trust • In 2007 when we began our conservation project Barn Owls were listed as endangered. Following our efforts they are now out of this category but are facing a renewed threat from increasing development destroying the wide-open hunting terrain spaces they require for survival.
Otters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flagship species and our emblem, we are improving nesting habitat for ground nesting birds. • Watercourse species indicator , healthy water

Are there any **species** your group or organisation would like to see recovered in your local area? (4/4)

Species	Reason (sample of comments)
Reptiles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common Lizard - Small population being monitored, would like to see this grown and diversify. • We would like to create more opportunities for reptiles to thrive
Swifts (and Hirundines)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are becoming increasingly rare and as they are a migratory species coming from Africa, not all of the hazards are known but they are clearly suffering from lack of nesting sites in this country and loss of habitat which creates the insects on which they feed. • Red-listed, plummeting population • Declining breeding numbers • Numbers fallen by 58% since 1995 • Supporting a project to encourage more breeding pairs at a church • Our local population has recently declined
Trees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many Ash trees have been destroyed due to ash die back and many more destroyed by the council in order to prevent the spread. They are usually the tallest trees in a wood and provide precious habitat for numerous species. • To replace those lost through Dutch Elm Disease
Turtle Dove	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turtle Dove is Critically Endangered in the UK and Sussex was shown to hold about 5.6% of the population in the last national survey (Stanbury et al 2023. Bird Study 70, 183-194)... The species requires a mix of suitable woodland, scrub and wetland features as well as access to small seed resource, so actions will also benefit other birds and wildlife. Both Sussex LNRSs should in our view aim to make a significant contribution to the recovery of this species in the county (and wider south-east region) and help prevent its local extinction. • They were previously more numerous
Water voles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once were quite common, but now struggling to survive • to increase their numbers
Wild plants & flowers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Devil's Bit Scabious - This species is now restricted to just a few locations in the parish of Warnham. It was once widespread and it would have supported colonies of Marsh Fritillary (last records in 1960s, we believe). • Marsh gentian - Flagship species, extending small pops. • Moon carrot - rare plant found on Seaford Head - at risk. • Round headed Rampion - Population declining, loss of chalk grassland. • Mistle Thrust - Not spotted any this year so far in the area. • Pale dog violet - Easternmost occurrence in Sussex, we are improving its habitats • Wild Garlic. - Been taken in a damaging way and publicised • We have a project that manages and maintains green triangles in the village, using meadow management and planting them with native wildflowers, grown from locally gathered seed • Increase opportunities for native pollinating insects

Q: Are there any **places for nature** your group/org would like to see improved? 152 places/types of places were mentioned. Below are a few examples.

Arun River, area & tributaries

- North River: This tributary has potential to support increased numbers of dragonflies, damselflies and much other wildlife. The river is in many places overgrown, overly shaded and swamped with invasive non-native species
- Arun Valley: Conserve the Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh

Ouse River, area and tributaries

- Shortbridge Stream and Batts Bridge Stream: links Ashdown Forest to the River Ouse and the Weald to Waves for eel / trout / otter / water vole restoration
- River: Pollution
- Ouse Estuary Nature Reserve: Not currently managed effectively. So much potential for wetland, saltmarsh and generally could be managed more effectively for nature.
- Flood plains: Need to be allowed to flood to provide wetland habitat

Combe Valley

- Countryside Park: We would like to see an overarching management plan for nature introduced to the park
- Floodplain: Wetland environment home to rare priority habitat types- fenland, reedbed, flood meadow
- Combe Haven, the valley of Combe River, with reed beds and flood meadows: to improve the environment and also allow the river to flow naturally and help manage seasonal flooding.
- Flood Meadows: most are neglected so will disappear unless improved

Eastbourne downs

- Downland scarp: Covered with dying ash woodland, but with potential for alternative habitat creation.
- Scrub is encroaching on grassland.
- Wildlife value has been degraded by intensive agriculture but has potential for nature-friendly farming.

Bewl Water

- Threat from development - want to see it remain a wildlife site
- Nature comes second to profit and is neglected
- There is access to Bewl Water and the footpaths around it from the village, litter from visitors is a problem, the management of it is left to landowners and volunteers

Amberley

- Pond: Losing biodiversity
- Verges: For biodiversity and wildlife gains

Adur Estuary

- Degrading state of site and increased disturbance

Landport Bottom, Lewes

- Restore previous lines of hedgerow for wildlife
- Reinststate the old hedgerows as habitat for insects and invertebrates

Goring Gap Beach

- Under threat from development. Area important for migrant birds
- Needs to be left to nature, not developed.
- To prevent loss of this farmland and green gap to development and to create a green corridor from Downs to sea
- To improve the environment and also allow the river to flow naturally and help manage seasonal flooding.

Seaford Head

- Grassland quality is declining due to scrub encroachment
- Not currently managed effectively for wildlife. Too much emphasis on neatness.

Bulverhythe

- Area is active for habitat creation- hedgerows and potential wet woodland
- Recreation Ground area includes football pitches. It is one of the main entries into the Countryside Park and the surrounds of the formal sports areas are suitable for environmental improvement

Other popular **places for nature** mentioned included the following

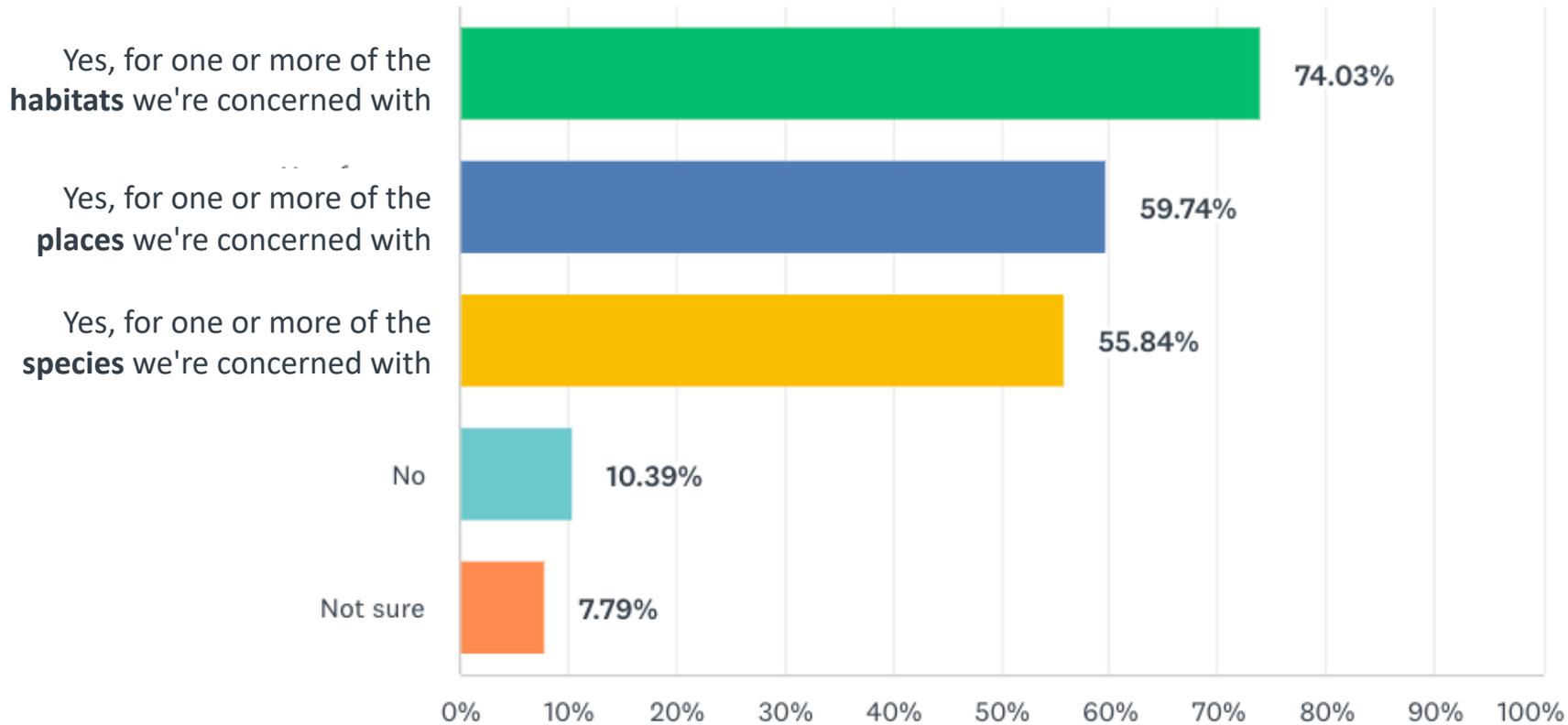
Churchyards	Nature Reserves	Orchards & meadows	Urban areas	Verges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Saints Churchyard: Extremely biodiverse unimproved grassland, currently poorly managed • Known glow worm sites (eg St Bartholomew's churchyard) - Under threat from spraying and grass cutting regimes • The Churchyard of St Peter and St Paul: A fabulous area, central to the main part of the village, with great potential to be improved for wildlife. Currently an area is managed a meadow, hedges are being laid and maintained for wildlife, swifts are being monitored and encouraged in the church tower. • Herne Road Cemetery: Extremely biodiverse unimproved grassland, including chalk grassland species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Northern Park associated with the White Farm Development: Enhance and protect the existing Nature Reserve • West End nature reserve, RH15 - site of brown hairstreak butterfly, need management cycle • Brightling Meadow, near the nature reserve: it would be part of the same wildlife corridor connecting protected green spaces in Polegate • Chailey Warren: This small site is hard for owners SWT to manage and we wish to help • Down Meadow: council owned small nature reserve awaiting improvement • Bedelands LNR: lack of volunteers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restoration of lost hedgerows, orchards, ponds and woodland in association with Wadhurst Park • Community orchard in North Chailey: Benefit people, landscape, and wildlife • Meadow in Tanyard: This is an ambition and committee is considering • St Francis Fields: Restoring wildflowers and installing 2 new ponds in field 14, and the Conservation Society orchard • Ashington Recreation Ground: Would like creation of wildflower strip • Beacon Field and Workhouse Pond: Parish Council land. Restoration of wildflowers in grassland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban parks and woodlands: Increase wildlife corridors and connectivity with countryside • Urban street trees in Sussex's towns and cities: Engage people with benefits of nature • Nesting places for swifts in urban areas • Local parks: These can be littered, inadequately managed, too much dog poo that owners don't clear up • Parks in Woodingdean: There is potential to increase biodiversity by creating more varied habitats in local parks if managed properly. Such as leaving areas not mowed and planting trees. • Private gardens: Educate for more trees, hedging in private gardens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We would like to see local councils adopt a limited cutting regime that actually works: transforming verges and parkland into nature reserves. This requires solid communication within council structures. Too often, limited cutting regimes are in place but ignored • Grass verges in Woodingdean: These can provide valuable habitat for many invertebrate species, if managed well and this in turn will create more insects and food for wild birds. • Near Groomsbridge: There's lots of cow parsley but relatively little variety of flowers in our verges



Projects, plans, specific capacity and barriers to action



Q: If you gave habitats, species and/or places, does your group or organisation have any **projects or plans** to improve or create them? (Tick any that apply)



198 projects mentioned including:

- 12x Pond restoration/creation
 - 10 x Orchard creation/restoration
 - 9 x Verges projects
 - 9 x Species surveys
 - 7 x Hedgerow management or planting
 - 6 x Swift box installations
 - 2 x Litter clean-ups
 - 2 x Dark skies projects
- Plus:
- Ancient Woodland Restoration
 - Water Quality monitoring
 - Implementing Bee hotels
 - Leaky dam creation/maintenance
 - Bracken, Bramble and Birch control
 - Tree planting
 - Toad crossing sites
 - Coppicing

Q: Describe your flagship project (1/6)

Northiam PC nature restoration group

Project name: Northiam, naturally!

Habitat/Species: All biodiversity

Result: Better data on hedgehog distribution, Surveys of butterfly numbers across Parish grasslands. Increased number of followers (300)

How: Facebook Group, promoting conservation and monitoring of species

Status: Ongoing.

Crowborough Wildlife Group

Project name: Walshes Park Triangle Field

Habitat/Species: Unimproved grassland

Results: Increase in biodiversity, esp. late flowering species e.g. Devil's-bit Scabious, colonised by rarer butterflies such as Brown Argus, Dingy Skipper and Marbled White

How: Worked with Wealden to allow CWG to lead on management of the field, esp. to stop regular mowing

Status: Complete.

Bexhill Friends of the Down

Project name: Trees for Cities tree planting in Bexhill

Habitat/Species: Bexhill Down, 1500 native tree whips and 35 standards

Results: Large area of previously mown grass now a young wood

How: Liaised closely with TfC staff, advertised event to attract local involvement, coordinated with RDC and attended tree planting days with my volunteers

Status: Complete: Dec 2022-Jan 2023.

Ringmer Parish Council

Project name: Almond Field, Ringmer

Habitat/Species: Field/meadow

Result: Increasing the biodiversity of an existing field.

How: Planting native wildflower species

Status: Ongoing.

Ticehurst Parish Council

Project name: Stonegate village pond

Habitat/Species: Pond and wood

Aim: Improving pond and wood

How: Laying roadside hedge, creating an all-weather path, opened-up overgrown surrounds of the pond, coppiced woodland surrounds.

Status: Complete.

CPRE Sussex

Project name: Plant Your Postcode

Habitat/Species: Urban street trees

Aim: Multiple trees planted

How: Work with Residents Groups and Brighton & Hove City Council to facilitate the planting of more city street trees

Status: Ongoing.

Woodingdean Wilderness Group

Project name: Nature Recovery Wildlife Hedge in partnership with South Downs National Park Authority

Habitat/Species: Hedgerow and wildlife area

Results: Planting a hedgerow and enhanced another wildlife area- 1k mixed native species and 40 Elms

How: Brought community together- 65 volunteers over 5 sessions to prepare, plant and mulch trees.

Status: Complete Feb 2024

Arun District Council

Project name: Mowing for wildlife

Habitat/Species: Urban Parks

Result: Increased flora and fauna

How: Changed mowing regimes including cut and collect

Status: Ongoing

Uckfield Council

Project name: Woodland Trust Lake Wood LWS LGS

Habitat/Species: Peat fed lake (rare in South East) conservation and restoration. ALL species within including European Eels.

Result: Protected, species recorded

How: Worked with Dr Stenning to protect and conserve the area

Status: Ongoing (Commenced 1987)

Flagship projects (2/6)

Friends of Seaford Dewpond

Project name: N/A

Habitat/Species: Dewpond

Result: Restoration of Dewpond

How: Worked alongside volunteers and dealt with administration

Status: Ongoing.

Combe Valley Countryside Park

Project name: Carp removal

Habitat/Species: Dragonfly larvae and other pool dwellers which carp eat

Results: Should improve numbers of dragonfly / damselfly and water birds

How: Removed carp from pools where practical

Status: Complete, March 2024

Shoreham District Ornithological Society

Project name: SDOS Social Media

Habitat/Species: Adur Estuary SSSI

Results: Some Paddling groups have modified their behaviour to benefit nature in the SSSI

How: Reach out to local groups such as paddlers and push awareness of the SSSI on social media

Status: Ongoing

Slaugham Angling Club

Project name: Norfolk Reed bed planting

Habitat/Species: Field/meadow

Result: Protected resident fish from cormorant predation

How: Planted more reeds, and created a cormorant proof margin to protect fish during the winter

Status: Ongoing.

Lewes Urban Arboretum

Project name: Wildlife hedges in Bell Lane, Jubilee Gardens, Lewes Cemetery, Southover and Western Road School grounds

Habitat/Species: Wildlife hedges

Aim: To increase biodiversity and involve 600 children in planting trees

How: Planted a range of native whips.

Status: Complete (2023)

Wild Wadhurst

Project name: Verges and Triangles

Habitat/Species: Several green triangles and verges around the village

Result: Increased biodiversity and wildlife corridors, promote community group.

How: Used meadow management to reduce grass and increase native wildflowers.

Status: Ongoing.

Hamsey Parish Council

Project name: Tree planting at Beechwood Hall & Rural Park

Habitat/Species: Urban parks/trees

Results: More trees, eventual shade and fruit on some

How: Worked with Chris Bibby at LDC, Lewes Arboretum and South Downs National Park Authority volunteers to plant trees

Status: Complete Feb 2024

Lewes Swift Supporters

Project name: Swift box installation

Habitat/Species: Swifts

Result: Extended potential range of existing Swift colonies

How: Fundraising to fund Swift nest boxes and their installation

Status: Ongoing, started 2019

The Woodland, Flora & Fauna Group

Project name: Southern Mid Sussex Barn Owl Conservation Area.

Habitat/Species: Barn Owls in Southern Mid Sussex.

Result: Lifted species out of endangered category by providing roosting and breeding opportunities in areas of suitable hunting terrain.

How: Erected scores of boxes in suitable habitat locations around Southern Mid Sussex.

Status: Ongoing

Flagship projects (3/6)

Worthing Conservation Volunteers

Project name: Northbrook pond
Habitat/Species: Gorse bushes, young holly, oak, budlea, willow.
Result: Young trees now well grown.
How: Reduce bindweed and bramble smothering the bushes. Cut down bramble. Dig out nettles.
Status: Ongoing.

Seaford Natural History Society

Project name: South Hill Barn Dewpond, Seaford Head
Habitat/Species: Freshwater
Results: Significant improvement in the pond.
How: Restored the pond and undertaking ongoing surveys
Status: Complete, 2023

Tree Tents

Project name: The Secret Campsite
Habitat/Species: Rural Lewes countryside and woodlands
Results: Visitors can watch and sleep amongst nature, suspended amongst the trees.
How: Providing nature immersive treetop camping
Status: Ongoing

Henfield Parish Council

Project name: Henfield Community Orchard
Habitat/Species: Grassland being overtaken by scrub now a small orchard.
Result: More diverse nature - Becoming a loved but off the beaten track place in the village
How: Planted trees with community - including young people
Status: Ongoing.

Breathing Spaces, a Transition Town Worthing project

Project name: Sompting Barnyard
Habitat/Species: Bees
Results: A colony of bees has established itself and is thriving
How: Installed log hive for wild bees. Improved and maintain an ephemeral pond in the old barnyard. Will be hedge laying, managing the site for biodiversity
Status: Ongoing

Friendly Fox Design

Project name: Interactive nature trail
Habitat/Species: Chatsworth Park
Result: Improved understanding and appreciation of conservation in the area. Built self-esteem for local children and encouraged children outside to learn.
How: Created an AR trail and ram workshops for young people
Status: Ongoing.

Friends of Heene Cemetery

Project name: Heene Cemetery
Habitat/Species: Species surveying
Results: More than 625 species recorded.
How: Established the rich biodiversity of this old unimproved meadowland in central Worthing
Status: Ongoing

Chailey Commons Society

Project name: Exmoor Pony Herd introduction on Red House Common
Habitat/Species: Heathland inc mire & acid grassland
Result: Habitat condition is improving and gorse is not invading. Further ponies are on order to extend to Lane End Common.
How: Formed a pony checking group that for 3 years has successfully supported grazer in maintaining herd.
Status: Ongoing since May 2021

Transition Town Worthing CIC

Project name: Cortis Avenue Wildlife Garden
Habitat/Species: Urban
Result: This site was full of rubbish and has gradually been turned into a beautiful wildlife garden, and a real haven in an intensely developed urban setting. It has also provided a safe space for people to come together and take care of nature.
How: Hosting different species of wild flowers, creatures, insects (including bees)
Status: Ongoing

Flagship projects (4/6)

The Wellderness CIC

Project name: Tree planting 2022, Wild heart hill. Findon

Habitat/Species: Trees

Result: Increased biodiversity. Awarded the Queen's Tree (as part of the Queens Tree Canopy initiative)

How: Planted 1500 native trees

Status: Ongoing.

Seaford Natural History Society

Project name: South Hill Barn Dewpond, Seaford Head

Habitat/Species: Freshwater

Results: Significant improvement

How: Restored the pond and we undertake ongoing surveys

Status: Complete, 2023

East Sussex WRAS

Project name: As above

Habitat/Species: All species of wildlife

Results: 5-6k casualties a year - end suffering where necessary and return to the wild when recoverable.

How: Established a wildlife rescue ambulance service and veterinary hospital dedicated to sick, injured, orphaned and trapped wildlife.

Status: Ongoing

Plastic Free Seaford

Project name: Monthly beach cleans

Habitat/Species: Coastal/Seaford beach.

Result: Reduction in plastic pollution, safer environment for wildlife

How: Every month volunteers pick up litter and debris from the beach, permanently removing it from the habitat

Status: Ongoing.

Plot 22

Project name: Plot 22

Habitat/Species: Urban: Allotment

Results: An important space for people to learn about nature, build confidence in interacting with it etc.

How: Via gardening, sharing knowledge, observing or specifically putting on wildlife discovery sessions encourage vulnerable groups to tune in to nature

Status: Ongoing

Growing Hollingdean

Project name: Hollingdean park orchard

Habitat/Species: Orchards

Result: Community space, community food, wildlife habitat

How: Planted and cared for an orchard - we added a pond this year

Status: Ongoing.

Wild About Burwash

Project name: Wildflower churchyard St Philips, Burwash Common

Habitat/Species: Wildflowers

Result: Close working between WAB, Church, SBRS and wider community.

How: Guided walks (c70 people one Saturday), volunteer clearing, scything with Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre.

Status: Ongoing.

Wild About Warnham

Project name: Warnham Butterfly Fields

Habitat/Species: Semi-improved grassland/scrub; 34 species of butterfly and farmland birds

Results: New species of butterfly, birds and other taxa have colonised the site since 2008, with populations stable/growing. Site is also an educational resource.

How: Managed 20 acres of former farmland since 2008 to provide optimum habitat for butterflies etc.

Status: Ongoing

Lewes Town Council

Project name: Improvement on Landport Bottom. It is 44 hectares of open chalk grassland. The site was arable farmland until the Council acquired it in 1992.

Habitat/Species: Chalk grassland

Result: TBC

How: Under restoration from arable

Status: Ongoing.

Flagship projects (5/6)

Seaford Action For Nature CIO

Project name: Changes to management of Seaford Town Council owned public green spaces

Habitat/Species: All biodiversity

Results: 65 species of flowering plant, including bee orchids, have been found on Pump Field.

How: Worked with Council to change management - edges left to grow during spring and summer and cut/collected in the autumn.

Status: Ongoing.

Woodingdean Wilderness Group

Project name: The field adjacent to the cemetery.

Habitat/Species: Wildflower species.

Results: The habitat is enjoyed by different people including walkers and dog walkers.

How: Planted fruit trees and other trees and cut back paths and managed area to create a wildlife friendly habitat.

Status: Ongoing.

Peacehaven Town Council

Project name: Community Orchard

Habitat/Species: historic species of fruit trees plus grassland

Results: An area is now protected by Deeds in Trust, and attracts a wide varieties of species

How: individual councillors organised grants, worked their guts out, etc

Status: Not sure.

Amberley Parish Council

Project name: Millennium Green

Habitat/Species: Green space with trees and hedges

Result: Increased biodiversity.

How: Planted, amended mowing regime, hedge laying

Status: Ongoing.

Greener Amberley

Project name: Church yard

Habitat/Species: wildflower meadows

Result: Increased biodiversity/engagement

How: laying roadside hedge, creating all weather path, open up overgrown surrounds of the pond, coppice woodland surrounds

Status: Complete.

Friends of Combe Valley

Project name: Bulverhythe Community garden

Habitat/Species: A neglected, uniform grassed area

Result: Wildflowers have established, incl. bee orchids, Jack goes to bed, Jack in the hedge, Rosy Garlic etc.

How: Clearing tree guards, creating a wildflower meadow, planting of trees and hedgerows and more.

Status: Ongoing.

Uni. of East London, Sustainability Research Institute

Project name: Ecosystem service assessments and restoration projects for carbon and BNG.

Habitat/Species: Fenland, grazing marsh, reedbeds, ancient woodland, farmland in Combe Valley Park

Results: Updating Hastings Council's habitat bank knowledge using actual data from the field.

How: Est. the carbon offsetting and BNG value of the park. Established habitat management techniques

Status: 2024

Ferring Conservation Group

Project name: Warren Pond, Ferring

Habitat/Species: Pond.

Result: Improved habitat for various species incl. Great Crested Newts. Hopefully an increase in numbers.

How: Cut back and maintained encroaching trees, built hibernaculum and dead hedges, planted suitable wild plants and trees, installed nest boxes, installed interpretation board

Status: Ongoing

Tottington Woodlanders

Project name: Coppice Wood restoration

Habitat/Species: Woodland

Result: Many areas of the wood now in third cycle and Coppice has become good quality

How: Last 30 years Coppice regeneration using volunteers

Status: Ongoing.

Flagship projects (6/6)

Telscombe Town Council

Project name: Mini Forest

Habitat/Species: Located in Chatsworth Park with a mix of 30 species of UK native trees

Result: Community based project encouraging birds and other wildlife to area. Also for residents to enjoy.

How: Planted 700+ trees with the help of local volunteers, school children and Forest School.

Status: Ongoing

Groundwork South: Hastings & Rother: Combe Valley Team

Project name: Combe Valley Community Garden

Habitat/Species: Bulverhythe Recreation Ground.

Results: More diverse wildlife

How: leased an area in partnership, planted a native, diverse hedgerow around the perimeter, added areas of wildflower meadow, put in raised beds for growing herbs, flowers and vegetables, improved accessibility

Status: Ongoing

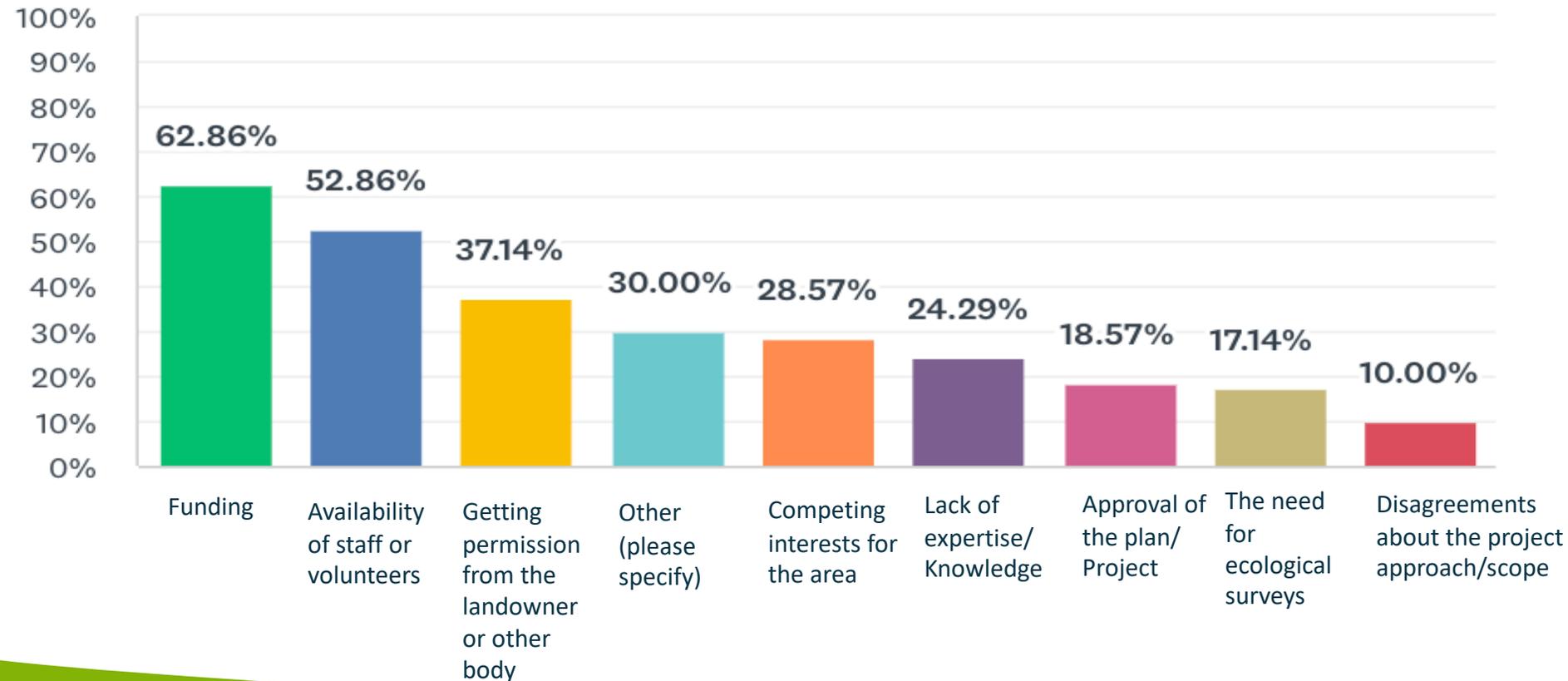


Specific experience, activities and potential within groups and organisations. (See appendix for details)

47	24	13
Groups/Orgs have carried out ecological surveys	Groups/Orgs own or manage land that could be better utilised to support nature	Parish or Town Councils have designated local green spaces within their Neighbourhood Plan because of their value to nature

Q: Is there anything hindering or preventing you from carrying out improvements for nature in your local area? Tick any that apply.

Almost all groups and organisations active in nature's recovery face at least one barrier to getting things done.



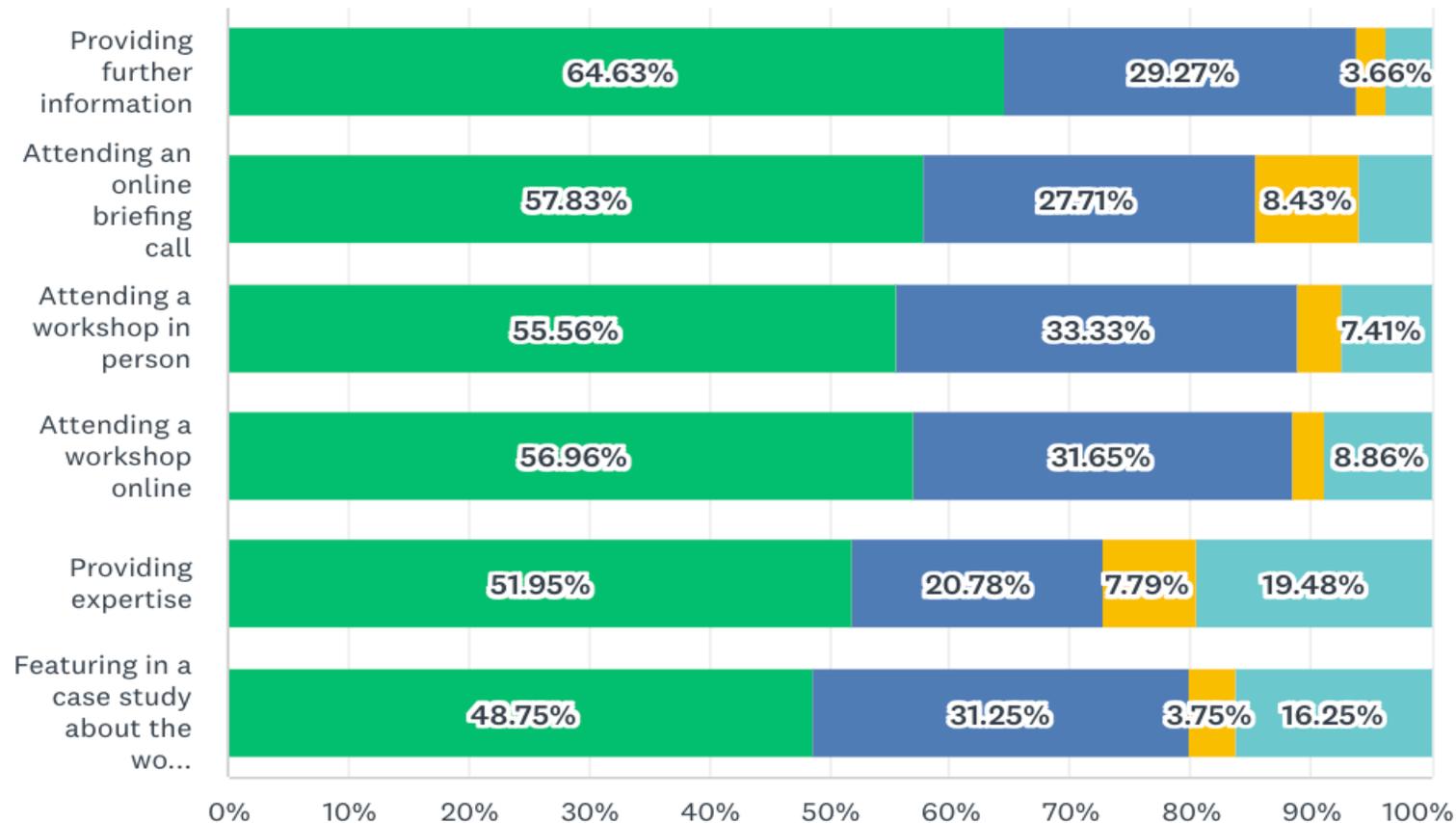
Comments about barriers to action

Capacity	Funding	Permissions	Competing interests
<p>We need more time! and more help from a range of experts!</p> <p>We are a volunteer-led group with varied knowledge, skills and experience between us. What we do not know, we aim to find out and are pro-active in learning new skills etc.</p> <p>Capacity to deliver projects at landscape scale and lack of engagement with landowners</p> <p>Finding the time to publicise the charity so that we're able to attract new volunteers and voluntary officers.</p> <p>We're very small, and only started work in 2021 - we have lots of ideas but have to be careful not to overload ourselves</p> <p>Capital funding and levels of expertise are less of a problem than access to land, core staff costs & time constraints.</p>	<p>On going core funds for insurance etc</p>	<p>Our challenge is to gather funding and permissions to protect and plant trees.</p> <p>Approval for any projects on Telscombe Tye may need approval from the Secretary of State, as it is Common Land</p> <p>We don't own any of the land so permissions have to be sought. Some of the land is actively farmed - livestock and crops</p> <p>The Parish council does not own much land... it is not easy to set up projects on others' land</p> <p>Planning permission bureaucracy and cost to create a pond inside SDNP.</p> <p>Licence to deal with handling GCN</p>	<p>Bhcc plans to reintroduce glyphosate - will kill insects and harm whole food chain.</p> <p>Refusal of Councils and churches to engage</p> <p>All projects undertaken are subject to severe and continuous development threats which are removing the countryside locations and natural environment essential to ensure wildlife and flora survival.</p> <p>Professional dog walkers and dog faeces/urine and trampling of bluebells</p> <p>SSSI consents are time consuming to obtain; widespread extensive grazing is not currently possible where A and B roads cross commons; motorists and residents' needs take priority.</p>

Interest in the LNRS and final comments



Q: How interested are you in any of the following ways to contribute to your Local Nature Recovery Strategy?



Final comments (1/2)

University of Sussex / UK Environmental Law Association

I've recently completed extended research into the legal and governance issues for environmental partnership working as an approach to nature restoration. I'm keen to find out more about how you are developing the Sussex LNRs and collaborate.

Slaugham Angling Club

It is important that the strategic direction encourages and enables existing and established groups to build on what they have and already manage. New projects are exc8, but much great work is already being done. I am the chair of the Angling Trust, the UK national governing body for all things angling and we fully support this initiative.

Chailey Commons Society

We are open to partnering on new initiatives that affect Chailey Commons and our local communities

Lost woods project

We are keen to collaborate across Sussex

Church wood community orchard

Hope it really makes a difference not just another data collection!! 😊

Uckfield Town Council

Please add:

- Local Geological Sites to the mapping corridors.
- MAGIC dataset ALL HABITATS Combined - see their methodology, please include pending LWS to the mapping.
- Link Water Catchments to important watercourses for species restoration.

Please ask government for all developer surveys to be added to the Biodiversity Record Centre and not copyright - species decline is not monitoring impact of loss of species due to these baseline reports - also by not being reported future desk-based surveys using places like Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre miss key species on pdf developer reports on a planning application but not on databases going forward - local developers missed Bechstein, Barbastelle and Myotis sp. Classifications.

Crowborough Wildlife Group

I have a large group of volunteers keen to start surveying the town, please let us know what sort of information you require ASAP.

Barcombe community wildlife group

We have been raising this topic with the Councils for some years but no one has contacted us in response. We have some experts here and a lot of local members who are keen to help plus a body of children and school to join with

Friends of Heene Cemetery

Our group's interest specifically centres on a fixed one-acre site in urban west Worthing. You can read more about our project at www.heenecemetery.org.uk
Contact me for a spreadsheet of the species we have recorded.

Kent & East Sussex Railway

Our linear Green Corridor can contribute hugely to Nature Recovery between Robertsbridge and the county boundary at the River Rother

Ringmer Parish Council

I hope we will see some positive outcomes and support for projects. I fear it will be just another bureaucratic exercise that achieves little or nothing.

The Woodland, Flora & Fauna Group

Consideration should be given to the protection of wide open spaces of countryside for open-area reliant species like owls, raptors & bats for whom wildlife corridors linking small nature areas are not sufficient... Similarly wetlands and ponds should not be isolated between areas of development where breeding migration between them is interrupted or prevented by buildings or roads.

Final comments (2/2)

Sussex Ornithological Society

The SOS funds a wide range of conservation initiatives in Sussex that aim to improve habitats for birds and other wildlife, donating over £466,000 since 1972. We have not listed any of these above as the projects were/are owned by other organisations such as the SWT and RSPB.

Woodingdean Wilderness Group

I have recently visited the Valley Road area at Peacehaven. I saw numerous species of birds including linnets; skylarks; buzzards; red kites; kestrel and more. This is clearly a very rich biodiverse habitat which is under threat of destruction by developers who have already destroyed a pond with a housing estate. It is surrounded by South Downs National Park and will impact on the surrounding area if developed.

Breathing Spaces

So good that this work is progressing, local community and voluntary groups need to know that county and borough councils are developing a strategic plan with expert partners, and that their work is recognised as part of that plan but that there is strategic direction and support.

Seaford Action For Nature CIO

Our success with Pump Field shows that renaturing only takes a couple of years with careful management. We agree with Seaford Town Council that biodiversity needs increasing throughout the town. Not all residents of Seaford are appreciative of wild flowers and biodiversity, preferring manicured lawns and verges... A significant stumbling block is lack of knowledge and support (eg from ecologists). Knowledge needs to be embedded as a critical part of the planning and decision-making process for maintaining public areas. This is critical. Another big challenge is to communicate why these changes are so important to a wider public.

Battle for Trees

We already have over 50 members in Battle alone looking to protect our trees. The next stage is to get processes to protect the trees we have via education and TPOs. Then fight for legislation to protect the trees we have.

Telescombe Town Council

Telscombe Town Council are focused on connecting areas of nature together, both within our area and our local connecting towns and villages. Have you considered engaging with schools, children and their parents?

University of Sussex / UK Environmental Law Association

I've recently completed extended research into the legal and governance issues for environmental partnership working as an approach to nature restoration. I'm keen to find out more about how you are developing the Sussex LNRSs and collaborate.



Appendix

47 groups/organisations have undertaken ecological surveys (1/2)

Arun District Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arun BNG study
Barcombe Com. wildlife group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actively seeking more We have funds ready
Breathing Spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not a proper ecological survey but we have done some surveying ourselves of plant species at the barnyard, a moth trap, butterfly count, pond dip etc
Chailey Commons Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual checklist of flora has been done by volunteers. Sussex Botanical Records Society surveyed Lane End Common in 2023 and will visit others commons July 2024
Church wood community orchard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildflower surveys and start to record insects
Combe Valley Countryside Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I walk in the park every week and record the wildlife I see (birds, insects, plants etc) but I'm not an expert, just interested
Crowborough Wildlife Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • our members survey lots of sites locally, particularly for plants, butterflies and moths
Eastbourne Downland Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecological survey currently being planned.
Ferring Conservation Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Used licensed Great Crested Newt surveyor for above Warren Pond project, but expertise of local members such as nationally recognised moth expert
Friends of Bewl Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matt Phelps - gull roost survey
Friends of Combe Valley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree Survey with Rother DC, for Bexhill area. Wildflower survey. Harvest Mice survey. Water quality. SOS carry out regular bird surveys in the park, independently.
Friends of Heene Cemetery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with SxBRC, we provide a citizen-science species recording and surveying programme. This has resulted in a species count of 625+.
Friends of Markstakes Common	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2010/2011 and available here > https://bit.ly/MKSTSMaps
Friends of Old Bridge Meadow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are currently running surveys for plants, birds and bats and also record other species as seen and record on iRecord.
Greener Amberley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small mammals, bats, reptiles
Groundwork South: Hastings and Rother: Combe Valley Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harvest mice nest survey: annual mammal society survey Seaweed survey: Marine Conservation Society and National History Museum Fen Raft Spider: with local entomologist Carbon capture and Biodiversity Net Gain survey: CVCP (With University of East London) 1066 I-Tree survey: mapping tree canopy of Bexhill
Henfield Parish Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With Henfield Joint Commons Committee we have commissioned ecological surveys of the Tanyard and three Commons
Kent & East Sussex Railway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2023 Breeding Birds between Bodiam and Tenterden; Bumblebees ditto (by the BBCT) and flowers More surveys to come in 2024
Kingston Nature Recovery Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small scale citizen science
Lewes Swift Supporters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring of Swifts and Swift nests from 2019 onwards
Lewes Town Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • wildlife and flower surveys on Landport Bottom.
Lewes Urban Arboretum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • i-Tree Eco-Survey of the trees of Lewes town
Lost Woods Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lost Woods 7 Butterflies survey
New England Wood Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have surveyed trees, shrubs, flowers, ferns, fungi, birds, and bryophytes periodically.
Newt Conservation Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • eDNA of ponds for great crested newts
Northiam Parish Council nature restoration group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase 1 survey St Francis Fields, Hedgehog survey annually since 2020. Butterfly monitoring. Grassland monitoring in field 14. Woodland condition monitoring in Harlot's Wood. Veteran Tree survey.
Peacehaven Town Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not as the Council but as an individual in an informal group of individuals – we have organised/private funded small scale ecological surveys of Valley Road area sites.
Plot 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not a professional survey but we have done a couple of low key BioBlitzes - more as an engagement tool than actually recording data

47 groups/organisations have undertaken ecological surveys (2/2)

Powdermill Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We continually monitor the habitats we look after, using the considerable expertise of our Trustees and volunteers.
Ringmer Parish Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A plant survey was completed on the Almond Field by a Parish Councillor, a Wildflower Ringmer volunteer and the SDNP East Area Ranger.
Saltdean Climate Action Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Telscombe Tie (common land) informal biodiversity /wildflower survey. (Comparison with previous historic survey records).
Seaford Action For Nature CIO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Citizen science surveys, mostly botanical to monitor the flora on our public green spaces throughout the town. This is limited by volunteer availability.
Seaford Natural History Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As listed above, plus reptile and insect surveys on Seaford Head.
Sussex Botanical recording Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Flora of Sussex, published 2018
Telscombe Town Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertook an ecological survey across Chatsworth Park in 2021. Several badger surveys have also been carried out in Chatsworth Park in 2021, 2022 and 2024.
Sussex Ornithological Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SOS carries out regular county-wide bird species surveys, e.g. Corn Bunting this year, Nightjar in 2023 and Nightingale in 2022, and annual winter bird survey and support local projects such as the South Downs Farmland Bird Initiative. Through our volunteers we contribute each year to both annual and periodic national surveys led e.g. by the BTO, such as the annual Breeding Bird Survey, and to local surveys in partnership with landowners and land managers.
The Woodland, Flora & Fauna Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Phase 1 Biodiversity Study was conducted across Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common Parish. It took 6 years to complete and involved hundreds of landowners/volunteers.
Ticehurst Parish Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular bird counts at Bewl Water.
Tottington Woodlanders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local wildlife initiative We are site H10
Uckfield	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lake Wood, species recording Downlands Farm, North Uckfield
University of East London, Sustainability Research Institute	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BNG baselining and condition assessments for Combe Valley Countryside Park. Carbon potential (peat soil surveys), Combe Valley Countryside Park.
Wadhurst PC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bird nesting surveys and eco surveys of Bewl Water
Wild About Warnham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have carried out surveys in our parish of Marsh Tits, Swifts and House Martins. We are currently trying to identify all extant colonies of the Grizzled Skipper butterfly
Wild Groombridge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bird surveys twice a year at Groombridge Place. Ecological surveys of Drover's Pond. Botanical surveys, monthly, of Wild Verge Trial area. Ongoing informal surveying via iNaturalist of whole village area.
Woodingdean Wilderness Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Woodingdean Wilderness Group 2023 biodiversity Survey -Wild flower Meadow. 102 species of wild flower and meadow grasses. 5 species of bees;14 butterfly species...etc. We have not undertaken or commissioned full ecological surveys but we have been doing our own surveying e.g. Butterfly and Bee Transect walks, Biodiversity survey of a wildflower grassland area, group bioblitz sessions, specific monitoring of lizards, slow worms and birds. We are also keen to monitor and encourage re badgers, small mammals and bats in the habitats we care for.
Woodland Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As part of our AW restoration projects eg at Tilgate Park where we surveyed for ancient & veteran trees and for invasive species.



24 groups/organisations own or manage land they feel could be better utilised to support nature.

Amberley Parish Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing
Arun District Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is opportunity to increase habitats in parks and open spaces, school grounds and housing estates.
Ashington Parish Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes. Two small areas of grassland next to church.
Breathing Spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We don't own any land. We manage 2 sites as volunteers and as stated above we could do better with more volunteers.
Friends of Combe Valley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We work with Combe Valley Countryside Park CIC and Groundwork South in the conservation and management of the park. The CIC have a lease of the Discovery Centre and the land around it which forms the nucleus of the community garden. The management of the park is complicated.
Greener Amberley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community orchard and organic allotments. Part of Wildbrooks, recreation ground, pond, millennium green
Growing Hollingdean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We manage several community orchards and hundreds of fruit trees around the ward. Many grass verges in Hollingdean could be turned to wildflowers
Hamsey Parish Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible scope at Beechwood Hall, Cooksbridge. HPC are trustees
Henfield Parish Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our recreation fields might offer some opportunities New development in north of village has land for possible project, Parish council owns the Community Orchard land (Sandpit Field) Parish council jointly manages 3 Commons with Horsham DC
Kent & East Sussex Railway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes. see answers on habitats. [I have excluded land in Kent]
Kingston Nature Recovery Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are supporting the parish council to better manage the land they own
Northiam PC nature restoration group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Parish Council owns land at St Francis's Fields and Beacon Field and Workhouse Pond. There are other areas of amenity grassland and allotments. Then there is the Churchyard.
Peacehaven Town Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, eg Howards Park, the Oval [Concerned individuals also own land] There is land owned by Lewes DC in Peacehaven that could be better utilised to support nature
Plot 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plot 22 does its best to garden in a nature-supportive way but that doesn't necessarily extend across the whole allotment site.
Powdermill Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Trust owns 3.5ha of Ancient Woodland, scrub and meadow at Rotherfield. Currently, we are probably managing this site to its maximum potential.
Ringmer Parish Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes. Some work to increase biodiversity is being carried out as areas of managed land is being planted with native wildflowers.
Slaugham Angling Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, Furnace pond Slaugham. Stonehouse Farm lakes, Plummers Plain
Telscombe Town Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telscombe Tye - specifically the 'E-piece' and a section south of the A259 road. - We currently manage the cutting of urban grass verges on behalf of ESCC. - Chatsworth Park and the 2 playgrounds that sit within. - Robert Kingan Playground, Bannings Vale. - Copse, Telscombe Cliffs Way.
Ticehurst Parish Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ticehurst PC own and manage 3 recreation grounds, are partners in the Bell Field ground with an adjoining car park that has recently been extended and needs a new hedge planted and own and manage 2 village ponds and car parks. All recreation grounds required treework to mature standard trees. We have planted hedges and trees in the past 50 years but would like to more to help boundaries and verges, by hedge laying and better mowing
Transition Town Worthing CIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We manage 2 community allotments that could support nature more with more support/funding, although we are doing our best already.
Tree Tents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing a new site at Little Thakeham, but our plans should utilise and preserve the woodlands well.
Wadhurst PC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes Tapsells Woods
Wild About Warnham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have been managing Warnham's Butterfly Fields since 2008, with the agreement of the landowner but without security of tenure. There are improvements we could make to support greater biodiversity. For example, if we wanted to manage the habitat with grazing animals, we would need to install fencing and a water supply; the creation of a 'Butterfly Bank' would require us to hire a contractor with a digger and suitable aggregates; two existing ponds dry out in the summer and are currently very shaded – opening these up would particularly benefit dragonflies and damselflies. However, these improvements would have significant cost implications or might require a long-term licence to secure funding.
Woodingdean Wilderness Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The group manage the woodland and adjacent field near the cemetery as already mentioned.



13 Parish or Town Councils have designated local green spaces within their Neighbourhood Plan because of their value for nature.

Amberley Parish Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Millennium Green - because of its significant community, educational and recreational value
Angmering Parish Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Likely - we will create an inventory
Ashington Parish Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large area of open space designated as such due to underlying archaeological interest.
Greener Amberley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreation ground, pond, millennium green
Hamsey Parish Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Platt, Field South of Beechwood Hall. Nature, and Community value
Henfield Parish Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Henfield Common, Oreham Common, Broadmare Common, Tanyard, Woods Mill - cited as sites of nature conservation importance
Lewes Town Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 65 specified green spaces in the local plan for Lewes
Peacehaven	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The authors of the Neighbourhood Plan steering group for the Area including Peacehaven has designated local green space, but NOT because of their value for nature
Telscombe Town Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chatsworth Park, Telscombe Cliffs and Robert Kingan Playground, Saltdean. It also mentions the Telscombe Playing Fields, owned by Lewes District Council.
Ticehurst Parish Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green spaces between settlements
Uckfield Town Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighbourhood Plan to be worked on - however some nature reserves own by council - much more green space needed for the town
Wadhurst PC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I'm not on the NP steering group but know that we did designate areas
Wisborough Green Parish Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant recreational value. In our NP Review a further space identified for recreational & environmental value.

