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Sussex Nature Recovery

A collective blueprint for targeted action

Emerging habitat priorities from the LNRS Public Survey

DRAFT: July 2024, 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 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:

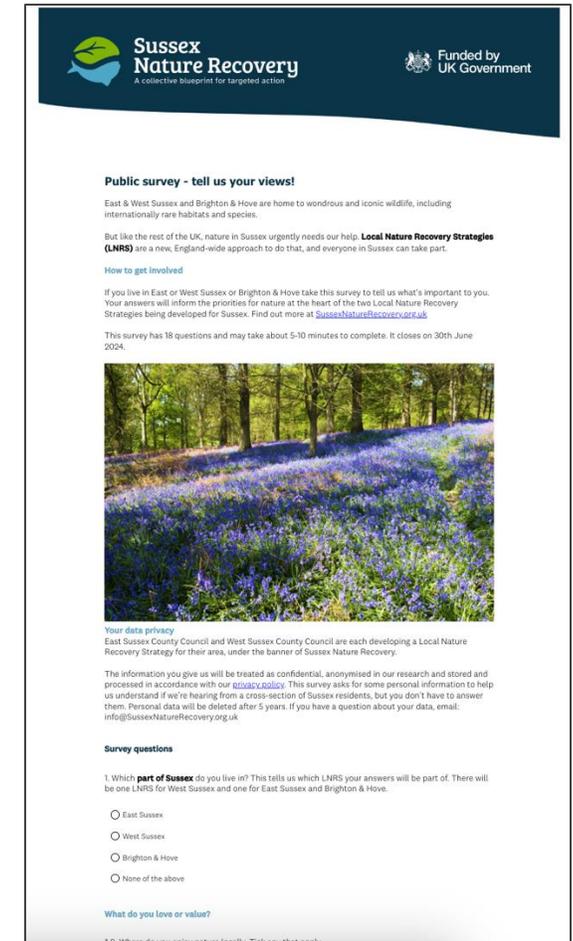
- **What they love** - their favourite places to connect with nature, the habitats and species they value.
- **What they've noticed** - whether they've observed any changes to local wildlife and wild places.
- **What they'd like to see** - which habitats at risk do they want to see recovered and which 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 **habitats** 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 **species** in Sussex and should be read in conjunction with this one, particularly where they demonstrate the impact that the condition, extent and pressures on habitats has on abundance and diversity of species in Sussex.



Key findings and themes

- Survey respondents love, value and visit all types of **habitats**, in all types of places across Sussex and Brighton & Hove, from nature reserves and national landscapes to public green spaces, routeways and gardens.
- Experiencing nature is important for respondents' **mental and physical wellbeing**. 19% of free text answers provided for why a place is favourite for nature include the word 'walk'. 10% of answers cite 'peace', 'tranquillity' or 'quiet'. Proximity is also a key factor in favourite places, with 17% of free text answers including the word 'near', 'close', 'local' or 'access'.
- 72% of survey respondents **have noticed negative changes to habitats**.
- Respondents have observed the **loss of, or decline in, the condition of all types of habitats**. Respondents cite urbanisation, pollution, increased footfall and poor management practices as the main drivers of this, including 337 unprompted mentions of 'housing', 199 of 'sewage' and 187 of 'litter' in survey responses.
- Respondents want to see **more of all types of habitats** and **better care of those habitats that are left**.
- Some habitat types are mentioned more frequently than others, both in terms of how much they are valued and how at risk they are perceived to be. The public's ability to access a habitat or see it, and their awareness of, or ability to see, the impact of pressures on habitats, are likely to be key contributing factors for this. For example, hedgerows and urban green spaces received many comments as these are visible to the public in their day-to-day lives, while issues receiving high publicity such as sewage in rivers and seas are also frequently mentioned.
- 25% of responders have noticed **improvements to habitats**. Positive changes observed include the creation and restoration of habitats as well as a reduction in cutting, mowing or spraying. Positive actions by community groups, NGOs, councils and individual farmers and landowners are applauded, but don't equate to what's lost.
- The **need for nature corridors** that connect habitats and allow species to move safely across the landscape is a recurring theme in the survey, with respondents identifying particular habitats that can help do this.
- Respondents want healthy habitats that support species, but **wider environmental benefits are also important**. 82% of respondents want cleaner air or water in their area. 67% want a reduction in the impact of flooding and 55% want more carbon stored.
- 3 **Striking the balance between being 'good for nature' and 'good for people'** is another emerging theme. In addition to other measures, there are 54 unprompted mentions of the role of, or need for education about nature in the survey.

97%

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

86%

Of respondents want to know that positive action for nature is taking place.

139

Unprompted mentions of the word 'corridor' in free text answers



Nine habitat types/groups were identified through the survey analysis



Woodland

Coastal & Marine

Riverine

Farmland & hedgerows

Wetlands & Waterbodies

Meadows and grasslands

Chalk habitats

Heathland and scrub

Urban

Please note that other habitat groupings have been used elsewhere in the development of Sussex Local Nature Recovery Strategies.

Quant: 72% of respondents have noticed negative changes to habitats in Sussex

	West Sussex	East Sussex	Brighton & Hove
Negative changes to habitats (e.g. damage, loss, pollution etc.)	72%	73%	74%
Positive changes to habitats (e.g. active management)	25%	23%	33%
A decrease in the amount of wildlife/species	68%	67%	66%
An increase in the amount of wildlife/species	10%	10%	10%
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%



Quant: the wider benefits of nature's recovery respondents want to see/experience locally.

	West Sussex	East Sussex	Brighton & Hove
Knowing positive action for nature is taking place	85%	86%	90%
Cleaner air or water	82%	83%	83%
Seeing more wildlife	80%	81%	88%
A reduction in the impact of flooding/storms	68%	66%	71%
More nature near to where I live	57%	56%	64%
Opportunity to access nature for my mental or physical health	56%	60%	74%
More carbon captured/stored	54%	56%	68%
More shade/urban cooling	36%	37%	58%
Economic benefits (such as tourism, or from farming, fishing, forestry etc.)	23%	27%	28%
Other	16%	19%	9%



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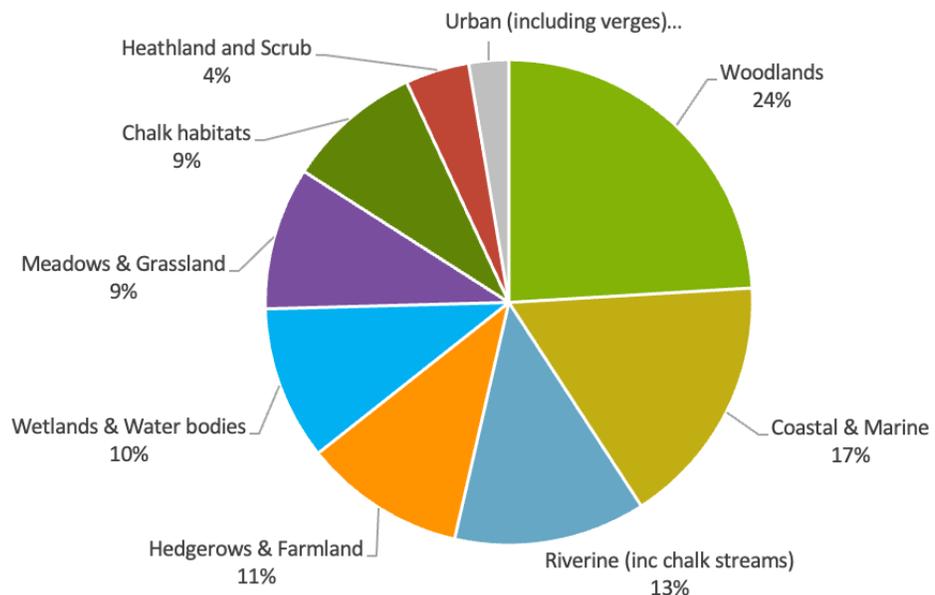
West Sussex responses

SussexNatureRecovery.org.uk

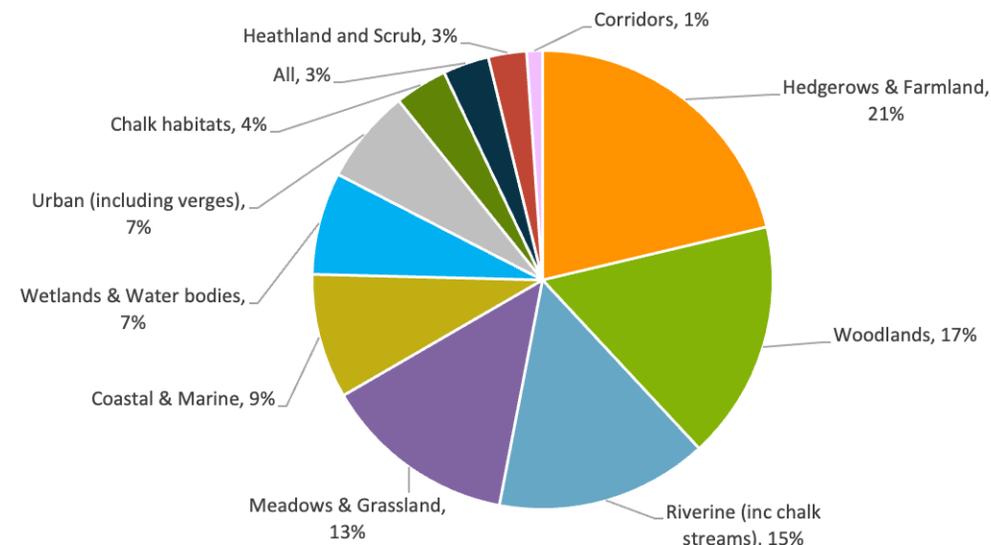


WS Quant: % of habitat types mentioned by respondents

Most loved/valued habitats of respondents in West Sussex



Habitats West Sussex respondents think are particularly at risk or would like to see recovered



Please note: The figures shown in the charts above have been derived from analysing free text responses and are indicative rather than being exact. For example, though both questions asked for a habitat, some of the answers provided were places in Sussex. Where a place is characterised by a specific habitat type, that habitat was recorded (e.g. Shoreham beach = coastal, South Downs National Park = chalk habitats). Where a mix of habitats are found at a place, none was recorded. Where multiple habitats were listed in a single free text answer, only the first habitat was recorded.

The two charts also differ in that the right-hand chart (habitats that respondents particularly think are at risk/would like to see recovered) includes 'all' and 'corridors' due to a greater presence of these in answers.



WS Qual: Woodland (incl. ancient, wet, gill etc.)

Ranked 1st Favourite habitat: 24%
 Ranked 2nd Want to see it recovered: 17%

What respondents value about this habitat

The species they find there	Connection to place/heritage	Health & wellbeing benefits	Ecosystem services provided
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An incredibly abundant home of wildlife They're home to so many animals including deer lovely in spring to see bluebells Bluebells, primroses, wood anemones, violets - magic! Love to see beeches, oaks, hornbeams The variety of plants under the tree canopy. Fungi, bluebells, orchids These are especially wildlife-rich habitat TREES, BIRDS & SMALL MAMMALS Rare and precious for wildlife 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Woodland around the downs and coast. They are part of the history of Sussex Lots of nature and history It's part of what Sussex is famous for Feels very solid, essential and necessary Something very humbling about being in the presence of old, giant Woodland spirits. That the flora in these special places have been there long before us. Uninterrupted heritage timeline Puts me in touch with our heritage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fills me with joy A chance to retreat from the noise and bustle, to marvel at the biodiversity, soak up smells & sights Being amongst trees is so uplifting and calming wonderful places to walk in solitude Necessary for everyone's health and wellbeing Sense of peace, security, light and sounds of birds I love the smell and the quiet solitude of an ancient woodland. It brings me peace. I could not be happy without trees and the amazing habitats they create for plants, flowers, insects, birds, mammals, fungi - for everything! Peaceful places to watch wildlife 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vital to combat climate change Rich in nature - plants, insects, wildlife. A space with clean air. Enabling quietness, peacefulness, wellness, benefitting mental and physical space important for species, and providing shade and recreational areas, and drainage Excellent for carbon capture, wildlife, shade Also essential for biodiversity and for carbon sequestration I value trees for the function they perform, for us and other creatures but also for their beauty. the canopy absorbs road and aircraft noise so all you can hear are birds.

What they've noticed about this habitat

Pressures on this habitat	Loss of habitat	Poor habitat condition	Loss or impact to species
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More stress on woodland area, drought and flooding, higher temperatures Edge habitat threatened by environmental crises and loss of hardwoods from tree diseases Deer in herds of 100 destroying the woodland. Many many more cars. More litter, etc. So even if woodland survives it is degraded by noise, light, litter and pollution. Decrease in woodland due to impact of management of tree diseases and pests as well as due to storm damage, vandalism and fires; Woodland used by many more people and dog walking. the increased use often negative effect. Invasive sedge is spreading rapidly in woodlands. This tall plant blocks out light for more delicate species, such as bluebells. Please tackle urgently. Loss of trees due to increased gales and disease 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Woodland cut down and not replanted, as was stated it would be within 2 years. Acres of woodland and green fields being destroyed to make way for housing resulting in a loss of valuable habitats Housing eating up green spaces and woodland (Angmering specifically) Thinning out of local woods to create parkland. House building east of Chichester has reduced critical woodland corridors and threatens more. There is constant "nibbling away" at woodland edges Where they remain in Sussex - but too many have gone or been diminished Taken 100/1000 years to create can't be replicated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity in woodland decreased due to lack of active management Less woodland, and that which remains poorly managed. Many coppice woodlands falling into decay. Increases in the failures of new tree planting due to warmer summers and poor management. Woodlands neglected, un-controlled spread of non-native plants such as Himalayan balsam Too many deer graze the Ashdown Forest destroying the plant diversity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fewer woodland birds. Have notice a decrease in thrushes and owls in particular due to loss of tall trees through disease of ignorance. Burley's Wood has lost it's ancient bluebell area over the last 30 years to untimely mowing and proximity to Spanish bluebells We have more deer in the surrounding countryside due to woodlands being built on and a lack of culling. The building on green spaces and woodland upsets me as we are depriving so many animals of their natural homes Over protection of badger is creating an imbalance of woodland species.

WS Qual: Woodland continued

Ranked 1st Favourite habitat: 24%

Ranked 2nd Want to see it recovered: 17%

What respondents want to see related to this habitat

Protection	Habitat creation		Connectivity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please stop developers from taking the easy option and obliterating Sussex' green fields and woodland. • Woodland - Many of the good bluebell woods are at risk. • Protected woodland areas • These are fundamental to the survival of so many species and we are cutting them down like they didn't take hundreds of years to grow. Stop cutting trees down!!! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to invest in future ancient woodland • More woodlands, shade, footpaths • More deciduous woodland • Woodland such that coherent areas of habitat are recreated • More Birch woodland habitat - not sure what the current status is for Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, but haven't seen one for over 20 years. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diversity of trees in woodland • Better managed public access and environment might possibly allow for iconic breeding birds to return. [St Leonard's Forest] • More creatures indigenous to woodland • Woodland (that is not crisscrossed and trampled with paths, the mud eliminates ground cover and recruitment) • Mixed age woodland with healthy understory • Woodlands litter free 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More joined up thinking on planning issues to ensure habitat corridors ancient woodlands streams rives and grasslands are connected to allow natural movement of wildlife • Woodlands - Reconnected woodland fragments

Other comments

Positive changes they've seen relating to this habitat	Suggestions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good woodland management with wood being left in piles for habitats • In the woods timber is being left to rot. • Some areas being better managed, with increased attention to wildlife, and this has worked. In particular in some woodlands and heathlands locally. • Local voluntary groups beginning to re-coppice over stood ancient woodland, which can be great for the general health of the wood. • Positive: the creation of Worms Wood and the positive impact to our community. • Some woodlands are better managed with regular coppicing which encourages bluebells. • In my own managed woodland, I have improved habitats and been rewarded with increased diversity of species • We've noticed increased woodland management in West Dean. Brush and tree clearance accompanied by new planting has opened up lots of spaces. We've seen increased small mammals and rodents in these areas - including an opossum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce grey squirrel population - bring red squirrels into local woodland.



WS Qual: Coastal/Marine

Ranked 2nd Favourite habitat: 17%

Ranked 5th Want to see it recovered: 9%

What respondents value about this habitat

The species they find there	Connection to place/heritage	Health & Wellbeing benefits	Specific types of habitat mentioned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Starling murmuration • More chance of spotting rarer wildlife and early and late migration. • Wild plants growing on the beach and wading birds • Sand dunes, vegetated shingle, horned poppies. • Plenty of seabirds can be seen from places like Shoreham Harbour • I love the variety of wildlife from Coastal trees to a wealth of bird life and intertidal species • Shoreham shore along the boardwalk vegetation is spectacular 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Makes Sussex Sussex • They are ever-changing habitats, full of things to discover - birds, shells, rocks incl the geology of Chalk habitats,, fossils, halophytes, insects, stars, and the wind! Great places to feel the energy and power of nature 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great for walks & swimming • It is never the same and there is something new to discover everything we visit • Clean air, peaceful and beautiful • Being by the sea is therapeutic • Clear views of skyline, big weather. Unusual birds • A place to breathe and sit and listen to the sea, birds and nature • The sound of the waves, the never-ending view up until the horizon. It offers a place to look out to infinite dreams of what can be. • So good for my wellbeing - I feel peaceful, connected, part of the whole, full of awe, get to move my body in a way that feels great • It brings me calm, especially when I'm in it! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kelp forest and underwater life • Kelp: Carbon capturing through kelp • Kelp: I love that we are rewinding and growing kelp again along our coast • Kelp: I love the idea of an underwater forest teaming with marine life • Dunes: Rare habitat in Sussex, interesting biodiversity • Rockpools: Fascinating biological habitat • Coastal grazing marsh: Rare habitat type, important high level roost and development and coastal squeeze pressure • Saltmarsh: Important relationship between land and Marine

What they've noticed about this habitat

Pressures on this habitat	Loss of habitat	Poor habitat condition	Loss or impact to species
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An increase in sewage and plastic pollution along the coast • Coastal areas being ravished by storms • Coastal erosion, esp shingle depletion. Bigger tidal scours. • Gross pollution in Chichester harbour & along the coast. No longer feel able to enter the sea or rivers without fear of illness • Green algae choking the mudflats and salt marsh due to nitrate eutrophication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban sprawl has destroyed the Sussex Coastal Plain and still continues • Erosion of East Head and loss of beach and sand dunes • Changing coastline at Climping - land being eaten away by the sea 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of seaweed on the beaches. • Too much litter on beaches • Some nature reserves are treated badly. e.g. wind surfers trampling salt marsh in the Adur SSSI estuary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The seaside winds are making it difficult for small birds to survive • Rampion installation contributes to a major polycrisis of multiple interactive factors disturbing the anaerobic seabed, and fluid movements of the seas and of the atmospheric air column - insects, bats, birds. • On the coast the number of amoebas and other aquatic species has reduced (based on personal survey data).

WS Qual: Coastal/Marine cont.

Ranked 2nd Favourite habitat: 17%

Ranked 5th Want to see it recovered: 9%

What respondents want to see related to this habitat

Protected	Bigger	Better	More joined up
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under pressure locally by sea level rise, important to protect/adapt. • Maintain the gap between coastal settlements and protect the Goring Gap and Highdown. • Kelp. Support the rewilding project, and get water companies to stop dumping sewage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More kelp and associated marine life 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine - Address the sewage issues along our coast! • Support kelp in the sea off Bognor • Coastal habitat carefully managed so we can still access it • Clean rivers and coastal waters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please don't ignore the initiative for wildlife corridors - eg protecting a wide enough area around the Lavant so that migrating species can get into the National Park from the coast.

Other comments

Positive changes they've seen relating to this habitat	Suggestions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nature restoration in Chichester Harbour - saltmarsh plus tern recovery. Kelp forest recovery along the Sussex coast. • The Sussex kelp recovery project has made a profound difference to the marine habitat off the Sussex coast. As a sport angler I have firsthand experience of how the project is helping marine species. Over the last couple of years the smooth-hound population has greatly increased in number with greater numbers and larger specimens being caught and released by anglers all along the Sussex coast, it also appears that they are remaining close to shore for a much longer period of the year, rather than the few weeks that they used to be catchable they can now be caught consistently from March or April until September or October. Another species that is recovering well due to strict fisheries management and partly due to increased habitat is the European bass, a species that was under severe pressure a few years ago. • More wildflowers at Cissbury Fields and on the beach at West Worthing. • Info about flora etc on Shoreham beach • Seeing more kelp on the beach. • The reintroduction of the Kelp forest is cleaning the seas and bringing back marine life. • Love the idea and impact of kelp restoration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What pressure is being put on Water Companies to stop polluting our local seas/beaches? Until issues like these are sorted there will be a limited success of your Recovery Strategy as more damage keeps being done. You will be forever plugging a never-ending hole :-) • I live in one of the officially deprived areas of the country (coastal town). Improving structures surrounding us, making nature front centre of the area would help encourage more visitors and hopefully improve the economic outlook for us.



WS Qual: Rivers & catchments

Ranked 3rd Favourite habitat: 13%

Ranked 3rd Want to see it recovered: 15%

What respondents value about this habitat

The species they find there	Connection to place/heritage	Health & wellbeing benefits	Ecosystem services provided
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaming with nature • Wildlife ranging from water voles to Sea eagles • Ouse: Swans, Egrets, Herons, Cormorants. • Living close to Mole, and the ghylls of Rusper, I love to see kingfishers, herons, ducks and geese, as well as all the fantastic insects • Lots of wildlife, little fish, dragonfly larve, duck egrets king fishers • Winter migratory wildfowl • Arun: - Deep river banks with lots of foliage support lots of birds and butterflies. I also enjoy watching Egrets and Herons here 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are quite simply the lifeblood of all living things • Cuckmere - It's the only undeveloped estuary in South East England and has happy childhood memories • Maintenance is vital to wildlife and the surrounding land (and the local population). • Essential aquatic habitat for all of life, peaceful, undervalued, litter • They provide a vital pathway for nature to travel to other areas. • Corridors of unique habitat and support many water abstractions for drinking/farming/etc • Vital for nature and to prevent excessive flooding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ever changing views at each bend of the river, diversity of wild plants & wildlife, great walking on the flat for older humans! • Feeds the soul • Tranquillity of flowing water • beautiful wild open spaces, you can breathe fresh air and there are always surprises! • Love walking by water • I love the calming effect of streams and rivers moving around a constant supply of fresh water, the life that supports - and the potential for fairly safe water sports! • I enjoy angling and nature watching. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internationally rare habitat • They are rare globally and support many varieties of wildlife • Unique to UK, need protecting

What they've noticed

Pressures on this habitat	Loss of habitat	Poor habitat condition	Loss or impact to species
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being destroyed by sewage. • River pollution • Bad - Southern Water's continuously wasteful approach to the management and harvesting of the natural water supply and deliberate distribution of sewage into Sussex rivers and seas • Building on nest sites eg Adur estuary. Water sports visitors degrading the river banks as there are no/few official launch sites. • Chalk streams (threat from over extraction) • Considerably more standing water / flooding in some years, especially on the flood plains of the Adur, Arun and Cuckmere • More flooding, rise in water levels especially in the river Adur nearby 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eradication of natural flood plains due to house building • Flood plains have been built on. • Please stop building houses, especially on flood plains. • Destruction of habitats following building construction on riverbank sites on river Adur. • Chalk stream segregated from its spring points by swales (various other indignities during development construction - design intent not to alter natural flows seems not to have been delivered); 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dried up rivers, • Foam and scum in rivers and streams • Rivers are in a terrible state with fallen trees and overgrown banks, and that is quite apart from the pollution in the water. • Streams and rivers are generally in much poorer condition, due to pollution, silt, sewerage discharge and erosion. • The River Arun near me is not in good shape, river beds devoid of weed and just full of brown algal scum, huge upgrades needed to waterworks! • Increased sewage discharge has damaged river habitats • Rivers are in a terrible state with fallen trees and overgrown banks, and that is quite apart from the pollution in the water. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Polluted rivers and rifes poisoning water mammals and fish • Less life in rivers. • Water voles along our river are no more. • River Rother: Decrease in numbers of the following species - Barbel, Chub, Sea Trout and Eels. River Arun: Decrease in numbers if the following species - Barbel, Sea Trout and Eels. • Streams and rivers never have frogspawn or newts any more. • Kingfishers - seem to be much rarer now • Poor condition of local streams near South Harting means many no longer contain the same aquatic species I found in them 40 years ago eg brook lamprey, eels stone loach, white clawed crayfish.

WS Qual: Rivers & catchments cont.

Ranked 3rd Favourite habitat: 13%

Ranked 3rd Want to see it recovered: 15%

What respondents want to see related to this habitat

Protections	Supporting more species	Better	More joined up
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watersheds and flood plains need to be protected from housing development • Rivers - Less water abstraction from rivers, protect use of water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All river dweller creatures • Fresh water fish and river bank rodents • More 'Water voles' (mentioned 31 times) • Recovery of all the wildlife that depends on healthy rivers and streams. • Recovery of Fish in rivers • fish/insects plants in rivers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear streams so that water flows - good for fish, duck moore hens etc • More/improved freshwater provision for wildlife • River meanders reinstated • Natural riverbanks 	

Other

Positive changes seen	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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"> • The awful condition of our rivers and streams must be addressed. The impact of this on nature is appalling. • We must stop water companies polluting our rivers and sea. • Getting the rivers clean has to be a priority. • Would like to hear about Plans to keep our rivers and coastal waters free of pollution/sewage. • I'd like to be kept informed of what is being done, especially in terms of the health of our rivers.



WS Qual: Farmland & hedgerows

Ranked 4th Favourite habitat: 11% (Hedgerows = 8%)
 Ranked 1st Want to see it recovered: 21% (Hedgerows = 14%)

What respondents value

Biodiversity	Visible on the landscape/heritage	Hedgerows as wildlife Corridors	Scarcity
<p>Hedgerows</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excellent for wildlife Such incredibly diverse habitats, home to an abundance of plant and animal life Abundant with wildflowers and spring blossom, habit for birds and small mammals, species such as blackberries for foraging So much living and nesting in them as well as providing food for animals & birds Hedges such a wonderful natural resource for birds, and other wild animals They protect the little creatures - voles, insects etc Alive with wildlife! <p>Farmland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Locally farmed fields providing an outstanding mix of ecology - 13 different species of bats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I love seeing the patchwork of fields, the flowering and leaf burst over the seasons and the masses of species that depend on hedgerows. Puts me in touch with our heritage <p>Hedgerows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traditional English landscape feature. So critical to bird and other wildlife recovery and very attractive Seen from cars and on foot harbingers of spring Remind me of how the environment used to be before fences and overdevelopment So diverse! They shelter and feed so many species, protecting them from us (and us from ourselves, including highway pollution). They often come with ditches and offer an insight into historic land use too - history and nature in one. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nature corridors and shelter for wildlife For being amazing corridors allowing species to get to different islands of the habitat they need Vital wildlife corridors and safe places for small creatures to hide from predators. Also, they're lovely to look at. Managed well they are a diverse habitat that form links & Wildlife corridors For all their benefits to nature, acting as wildlife corridors to connect our every increasingly fragmented woodland habitats provides a corridor for wildlife and insects to use both for travel, shelter and food If well managed, Nature's wildlife network, Give me hope for biodiversity highways to support nature recovery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> They seem to be decreasing at a rate of knots and are so important to birds fast disappearing Every hedgerow is precious

What they've noticed

Pressures	Loss of habitat	Poor condition	Loss or impact to species
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arable fields devoid of life due to excessive pesticide and weedkiller Hedgerows are not maintained allowing Bramble to choke native hedgerow trees. Constant developments destruction of habitats hedgerows. Excessive use of pesticides and herbicides up to base of hedges with loss of hedgerow plants and birdlife Destruction of hedgerows; cutting back in season; loss of trees both through disease and seemingly weak forest management. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ancient hedgerows destroyed. Farmland built on. My local area is currently undergoing development so a lot of hedgerows have been taken down. These hedgerows were previously humming with birds and insects. less native hedgerows Hedgerows have been tragically uprooted and not replaced Huge amount of building is taking out established hedgerows and trees -often during nesting season. We have lost very many hedges in the countryside 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Too much grass management on farmland so no wild meadows. <p>Hedgerows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some are cut in May when birds are nesting Hedgerows scalped at the wrong time, butterflies lay eggs and they are destroyed. Hedgerows near me are declining, cut very short or low, and dying species eg elm + ash or being replaced with species with little value for nature (eg laurel). Very few hedgerows are maintained for nature. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 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, birds to eat, nest, hunt. Therefore, declining species Hedges removed and green corridors, so travel is impossible. Hedgerows being cut back excessively leading to birds being ejected from their habitat especially bad if it happens in breeding time a significant decline in farmland hedgerow birds A lot of the 'green' spaces in Seaford are really fairly barren farmland, with no corridors for nature.

WS Qual: Farmland & hedgerows cont.

Ranked 4th Favourite habitat: 11% (Hedgerows = 8%)

Ranked 1st Want to see it recovered: 21% (Hedgerows = 14%)

What they want to see

Protected	Bigger	Better	More joined up
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hedgerows - Protect hedgerows and increase them If housing is built, protect the wild hedgerows. Protect our AONB's and farmland from complete over development Protected ground nesting sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wild borders around fields Hedgerows and existing ones allowed to grow higher and wider whenever possible which is a simple way to gain habitat. Plant more hedgerows, shrubs/trees on any available small plots/corners of streets, on greens, in alcoves. Plant more hedgerows, shrubs/trees on any available small plots/corners of streets, on greens, in alcoves. Farmers must be supported to move towards more sustainable farming practices. Hedgerows must be reinstated. Re-introduce hedgerows More tree and hedgerow planting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wider field margins Set aside in fields being ploughed up Hedgerows allowed to grow and provide over winter protection and nesting sites More mixed hedgerows better management of Hedgerows allowing them to grow more naturally and not be routinely shorn down to chest high Hedgerows - Native hedgerows that support wildlife, i am seeing too much of red robin Photinia being planted to replace native hedgerows, little or no value for our wildlife More better managed hedgerows small fields of farms with plenty of hedgerows Reduction in 'slash' cutting of hedgerows 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hedgerows along bridleways that connect without the need to go on what are now very dangerous roads. Hedgerows and Green corridors

Other

Positive changes seen	Other comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I like seeing farmers add wild flowers around crops. Keeping hedgerows. I visit NI and they are constantly putting slurry on fields which cannot be good for wild life. Where farmers have had grants to plant to encourage butterfly's and other insects, plus birds the results locally have been very positive. Voluntary work to restore hedges and ditches has begun I have noticed strips of land with wildflowers around farmland. I notice extra effort by organisations/touristy places to repair hedges and habitats on their land In the last couple of years I've noticed hedgerow planting on Lee Farm - Duke of Norfolk land. Greener Amberley and Amberley Millennium Green Trust have laid a hedge in Amberley Millennium Green this year and planted a new hedge in Amberley Cricket Field. Some new mixed hedges on a few farms funded by grants. The local farmer pays great attention to ensuring his fields have wide verges and maintains hedges to allow wildlife to flourish. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stop farmers from slashing hedgerows from February to September Please ensure landowners and in particular farmers are fully engaged in the Strategy - they have been looking after the countryside since prehistory! I'm concerned about the soil. The fields' soil looks and smells dead. I'd like to see less ploughing and more consideration for worms.

WS Qual: Wetlands & Water bodies

Ranked 5th Favourite habitat: 10% (wetlands = 7%)
 Ranked 6th Want to see it recovered: 7% (wetlands = 5%)

What respondents value

Biodiversity	Connection to place/heritage	Importance & scarcity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wetlands are full of wildlife all year round Birdlife, geese and waterfowl in the winter Amazing refuge for birds, plants etc- year round interest Frogspawn, little egrets, herons Wildlife, water lilies and bluebells Great crested newts Newts, frogs, toads, etc Havens for wildlife, reptiles, amphibians, dragonflies, etc 	<p>Wetlands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> These are the places we see how the land works and life is sustained. The places that complement the habitats around them. I wish I could "read" the plants that show where wet places are. Beautiful scenery and blend of sea and land-based nature 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Important habitat and carbon store Important habitat and wildlife sanctuary Essential for some migratory birds

What they've noticed

Pressures	Loss of habitat	Poor condition	Loss or impact to species
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Watering holes drying up in the summers Property developers have eliminated wetlands, lakes/ponds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diverse wetland turned into playing fields (and ditches cleared because of new run-off onto road) Fewer ponds and wetlands The biggest change is the destruction of ancient ponds mainly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ifield Millpond appears polluted and not in good shape for wildlife, Our local pond (Crawley Down) has been allowed to practically dry up. 🚫💧 A terribly neglected pond at Fairfield Rec. There WERE newts. It's now completely flooded and it's still full of litter and fly-tipped bike wheels etc More silt in ponds as drain aways not filtered. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pevensey Levels becoming a wildlife desert

What they want to see

Positive actions	Bigger	Better	More joined up
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ponds have been set up to encourage newts Leaky dams put in have changed the environment to a wetland Pagham rspb site has been developed nicely e.g new pond. Volunteers have... fixed a fence around the pond to stop dogs from swimming in it (but still kept a splash zone which my dog loves!) Pond regenerated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More Ditches and waterways - for the voles More wetlands and no housing built on floodplains More wetlands to attract migratory birds More wetland birds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keeping ditches clear, managing the flooding in recent months I'd like to see wetlands restored and better water management using permaculture principles, to help support local food growing in wet seasons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 make them accessible to passing Turtle Doves, allow for suitable habitats for dragonfly species, Newts etc.

WS Qual: Grassland and meadows

Ranked 6th Favourite habitat: 10% (Meadows = 7%)
 Ranked 4th Want to see it recovered: 14% (Meadows = 11%)

What respondents value

Biodiversity	Connection to place/heritage	Ecosystem services
<p>Grassland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Like to hear skylarks In summer our grasslands are incredible hives of activity. I like watching all the insects flying and crawling about amongst the flowers and grasses. Ectomycorrhizal habitat almost unknown locally and underexplored globally <p>Meadows</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Essential for insect and bird life Old meadows are beautiful and have a wide diversity of wildlife More butterflies and bugs, these encourage more wildlife into the area as the food chain increases They are so important for invertebrates as well as being beautiful 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rare flora and fauna (orchids and butterflies). Again under threat and diminished by agricultural practices and more. Becoming rarer and must be preserved. Adds to the majestic Chalk habitats look They have historic interest as well as great views and providing a home to indigenous species such as butterflies They are beautiful, whimsical, and typical of the Sussex countryside. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beautiful & vital for nature/carbon capture Supports pollinators, carbon sequestration, beautiful Home to much wildlife and helps to soak up heavy rain Hugrly important green spaces for people and corridors for wildlife

What they've noticed

Pressures	Loss of habitat / impact to species	Positive changes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building on historical diverse meadows. More flooding has caused fields and grassland to flood Grasslands have been built on/used for housing Wildflower meadows - less chemicals please 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local meadows are being built on, reducing the wildlife around my home. I recognise the need for housing (I am 35 and live with my mum!) but the enormous change in less than 20 years is stark. Meadows full of wild summer flowers have virtually disappeared along with many butterflies and other insects. Fewer flower meadows. Virtually no meadows anywhere. Lack of sound of insects in the grasslands/meadows Earls Meadow in north Horsham has entirely lost Marble White butterfly, and population crash of other meadow species due to inappropriate mowing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Having planted a wildflower meadow, I see loads of swallows swooping over the flowers, buzzing with insects. In my local area there are more spaces dedicated for wildflower meadows and increased signage informing people of nature that can be found. Introduction of meadows instead of cut grass Less frequent grass mowing and subsequent increase in meadows The National Trust/ Woodland Trust etc. are always innovating, with meadow areas and new tree planting. Wakehurst manages the meadows and areas of bracken very carefully, which encourages the growth of different flowers. Devil's dyke the management of the meadow/grassland area seems to encourage the cowslips

What they want to see

Protected	Bigger/Better	Recovery of species	More joined up
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meadows that are being built on need protection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wildflower meadows should be encouraged More meadows and rewilded grasslands Meadows - need proper management More Lowland Meadows 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More meadow birds, such as yellow hammers etc 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Linking species rich grassland along the downs

WS Qual: Chalk habitats

Ranked 7th Favourite habitat: 9%

Ranked 8th Want to see it recovered: 4%

What respondents value

Biodiversity

- The variety of species of **insects, butterflies** and flora
- Finding **different flowers** due to the chalk and animal grazing and the **red kites** and **birds of prey** and hearing and seeing the **nightingales**
- **Insects**, especially butterflies and flowering plants.
- Butterflies, skylarks and orchids
- Enjoying **trees, nature, deer, sheep, birds of prey**
- Chalk loving flora big vistas big raptors
- Chalk grassland: Wall and **chalk Hill blue butterfly**
- A rare and precious habitat for native wild flowers and bug life.

Connection to place/heritage

- The historic Downs
- It is habitat that **characterises the counties**
- For people and livestock in **harmony**
- Traditionally grazed turf - Range of herbs, wildflowers, is very beautiful- steeped in colour, shape & scent. Haven for pollinators - bees & bee orchids... etc
- Accessible, part of **local history**.
- It makes me feel at home and connected
- Grazed chalk landscape is a rare man-made ecosystem with a raft of rare wildflowers are wildlife including Butterflies - the **cornerstone of SDNPA heritage**

Health & wellbeing benefits

- That feeling of being out in the open, seeing for miles, the enjoyable strenuous **walking**.
- Views, flora, birds, lovely **walking, peacefulness**
- We need this for the biodiversity, glorious views and beautiful **walks**.
- The weather systems around these fascinates me- the types of soils, and plants that thrive on them create brilliant habitats for butterflies in particular. The views are also **breathtaking** and **good for the soul**
- Blows the cobwebs away, **awe** inspiring views, nature

Fragmented

- **Fragments** of different pockets habitats
- **Mosaic** of wild plants
- **Chalk grassland**
- Internationally rare, great biodiversity
- Unique habitat that I saw a lot of in childhood, now sadly only surviving in a few places.
- Most has long gone...what's left is very **precious**

What they've noticed

Pressures

- Over my lifetime here has been a decline in habitats, chalk grassland is an extreme example, with most of it being lost. **Changes in agricultural methods** have been one of the main drivers, but also **building in the countryside**.
- fly tipping on the south downs

Loss of habitat

- Downland - loss of 'bare' sheep-grazed landscape
- Natural downland being **lost to vineyards**
- **Reduction** in chalk grassland,

Poor condition

- Grassland (or unimproved grassland more generally) - **hugely undervalued** and biodiverse
- Chalk habitats (at risk due to **fragility**)
- Big decline in diversity locally in the **South Downs** National park due to a more commercial intensive farming regime including **significant destruction of habitat**

Loss or impact to species

- Fewer birds on the **downs**. Corn buntings, lapwings, cuckoo and more
- Fewer large birds of prey in South Downs
- There used to be more birdsong and butterflies on the Downs. You need to go further to see any.
- General decrease especially **skylarks** and **butterflies**

What they want to see

Good practices

- Some improvements to chalk grassland sites due to good projects. Waterhall, Wilder Horsham, Knepp, Ouse Valley, Lost Woods, Weald to Wave etc are all encouraging.

Bigger

Better

- Unimproved grasslands (especially chalk and lowland meadow)

Recovery of chalk species

- Wild flowers unique to **chalk downland**
- Butterflies, particularly the **Sussex Blue**
- **Adonis blue** (better managed **chalk grassland**)

WS Qual: Heathland & scrubland

Ranked 8th Favourite habitat: 4%

Ranked 10th Want to see it recovered: 3%

What respondents value

Biodiversity

Heathland

- Variety of flora and fauna
- **Reptiles, Dartford Warblers, Nightjars**, and so much more.
- Essential for biodiversity

Scrubland

- Great for **breeding birds**
- Natural. Safe home to many creatures.
- Supporting Oak (baby ones growing themselves through undisturbed scrub as well as stag-headed ones taking themselves into old age).

Landscape character

Heathland

- Beautiful open spaces in Ashdown Forest
- Heathlands normally **offer wide open spaces** where you cannot see a building or road. This provides an element of relaxation unsurpassed.
- Had an **open feel** great wildlife habitat
- Part of Sussex Weald
- Wonderful **heathland**

Scrubland

- Rewilding low Weald - A good example of what Sussex could be.

Scarcity

Heathland

- Knowing it is **rare**
- Rare and important for wildlife
- **Unique** habitat with sandy soil and magical colours.
- The flora and fauna of this habitat is truly special and sadly this habitat is one of the **rarest** due to nutrification and land loss

Under valued

Scrubland

- Such an undervalued habitat

What they've noticed

Pressures

- Large areas of **scrub** have been removed for Housing development

Loss of habitat

- More areas that were once, for example, beautiful **heathland**, ancient woodland habitat off the M25 at the A3 junction (near RHS Wisely) now completely destroyed.
- Loss of hedgerows and **pocket scrub**

Poor condition

- Degradation of **heathland**, too much bracken growth
- **Heathland** areas neglected

Loss or impact to species

- **Heathland fauna** species under threat also and less sightings.

What they want to see

Examples of good practice

- I have noticed all the work at Buchan Country Park to manage and extend their lowland **heathland** habitat and create other varied habitats across the park
- Planned removal of non-native species opens up new areas on **heathland**
- Management of **scrub** on downs.
- More **scrub** appearing on the Downs.

Bigger

- Rolling out the lessons learnt on Knepp Estate to all farmland, for example, every single field in the UK could have an undisturbed corner of thicket or **scrub**. Just make field corners rounded instead of square! Thank you.
- More **scrub** and wood pasture

Better

- More **heathland** managed for wildlife
- We need to **prioritise poorly recognised habitats** better (**Scrub**, Ghyll Woodland, Helianthemum grassland etc.) and communicate their importance to the public, landowners and authorities

More joined up

Scrubland

- needs to be joined up with other 'Knepps'

WS Qual: Urban (incl. verges)

Ranked 9th Favourite habitat: 3%

Ranked 7th Want to see it recovered: 7%

What respondents value

Biodiversity

- Love seeing **wildflowers** on verges, etc in spring and summer
- Verges: Wildflowers and seeds and wildlife
- Verges left: they are nice to look at but also so important for **corridors for wildlife**
- Garden: Fostering a tiny oasis of some native flowers and wildlife in a growing desert of hardcore extensions, carparking driveways, concrete and astroturf ... SOB!
- Verges: necessary for **pollinators**
- We have had slow worms and toads on the plot [Allotment]

Accessibility/Havens

- Parks:**
- Haven of peace in a busy city beautifully maintained by volunteers & CDC
 - Place close by where we can walk the dogs in the park and the woods and enjoy all the variety of wildlife and plants/trees.
 - Apart from own land, its only place I see nature
 - A safe space to visit any time
- Community Allotment:**
- It's quiet, green, we're supporting ourselves and the community, I get to be actively involved in supporting nature, wellbeing and social benefits

Health & wellbeing benefits

- Providing everybody, some without gardens to be able to enjoy the fresh air /Play /relax/converse
- Free access, safe areas for people, dogs and wildlife
- Flowers in parks are so important for the elderly to sit and admire nature's bounty

Improvements at home

- Butterflies spotted & wild or planted wildflowers in our garden. Past wildflower area, which we are replanting this year. The previous planting lasted at least three years.
- Luckily it is full of visiting wildlife, Squirrels, Fox, Frogs, numerous birds, bats.
- My wildlife pond and feeders attract many different species.
- When we moved into our house, it was gravel and stone. Now it is a wildlife haven and we get lots of different wildlife in the garden. We've even had a grass snake.
- I can view a variety of birds, butterflies and insect life plus the occasional rabbit or fox from my small back garden which brings me joy.

What they've noticed

Pressures

- More garden plants being planted or escaping into the wild
- **Litter** everywhere
- **Cars parked** on lanes and churning up roadside verges which previously hosted wildflowers but are now just mud.
- Far **more fly tipping, litter** and a feeling of lack of care for our wild places, lanes and verges.
- Many council verges and parks being cut at wrong times for insect populations (including butterflies) to thrive
- Verges - Roadside forestry, damaged by storms and excess rainfall.

Loss of habitat

- **Urban trees and hedgerows** - sadly less of them, our LA seem obsessed with getting rid them all
- **Relentless 'tidyness' obsession** by individuals, organisations and councils regarding gardens and urban/semi urban green spaces and verges removing food and shelter for invertebrates, birds, small mammals.
- I see perfectly **healthy young and mature trees cut down** along roadsides.
- **Concreting** or plastering the ground with **plastic grass**.
- I have noticed how many gardens have been made into driveways.
- **Dramatic tree loss** in both urban and forest areas.
- It grieves me to see the **destruction of lines of oak**

Poor condition

- Habitat **degradation**, lack of care/value for urban greenspace.
- More wild areas in Parks - urban but **pollution**
- Many "public" green spaces controlled by social housing providers with **no mechanism/funding to replace trees**, let alone undertake strategic tree planning.
- There are more areas to us locally where **obsessive mowing of public spaces occurs**. It surely must be a huge cost to councils or developments as well costing wildlife their habitat.
- Kings Centre Park looks barren and neglected. More could be done to encourage wildlife

Loss or impact to species

- **Badgers** living in urban communities
- Grass verges should be being allowed to grow for wildflowers/ insect food, so **birds** have something to eat.
- Houses built without thought to homing wildlife such as **Swifts, Swallows and House martins**.
- decrease in birds, amphibians in urban areas
- Number and variety of previously **common garden birds declined**, e.g. sparrows, thrushes, blackbirds; **Number of swifts returning to breed declines** every year; **Numbers of hedgehogs and frogs** seen in garden/streets.
- **Hedgehogs** are at risk from slug pellets, too much concrete (habitat destruction) and too few urban hedgerows.

WS Qual: Urban (inc verges) cont.

Ranked 9th Favourite habitat: 3%

Ranked 7th Want to see it recovered: 7%

What they want to see

Protected	Bigger	Better	More joined up
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban Trees! Retaining them is not just supportive of the ecology of the county but also of the species which live in and feed from these trees! • I hate trees being cut down in local parks unnecessarily • Ban on artificial turf especially in urban areas • Trees next to suburban roads - they keep getting cut down and not replaced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More green spaces interspersed throughout towns and villages • More grassy areas in towns • it would be nice to see more trees planted on streets to help wildlife/species finding their habitats are threatened. • Street trees needed • Roadside trees. • Trees trees trees we need far more native trees on roadsides for the wildlife and to help with air pollution • Along railways and Rail Stations miles of land that could be rewilded instead of using weed killers • Need more urban ponds taking water from roofs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All newbuild houses should have a swift brick or two. All garden fences should have gaps for hedgehog highways. • More provision for birds ie owl boxes/bat boxes • Leave grass verges alone, unless mowing is necessary for safety • Gardens with animal access • Areas surrounding public buildings (for nature) • Mature trees especially in urban situations. • Tree lined A259 • Species-rich wildflower verges • Hedgehogs need doorways through fences • Rewilding of local parks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verges in the urban areas. We need north-south wildlife corridors from the downs to the sea and more greenery outside people's front doors and in our daily lives • Gardens in developments need corridors • Don't cut the verges!! These are a key part of wildlife corridors. • Having patches of nature along roads is nice but in many residential areas where I live these get cut down all at once or not at all, either preventing any benefits to wildlife or causing problems for residents encouraging the former, or cars park on these areas because of lack of better parking options for residents. It would be nice if these patches of nature could be better, to provide insects and small species with patches of nature to move across and rest in.

Other

Positive changes seen	Other comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quite a bit of tree planting has also gone on locally • Good - more wildflowers on grass verges and less mowing of said verges. • Good to see more wildflower planting on verges/roundabouts etc. • People complain about grass verges and graveyards getting too 'overgrown' - but I think its wonderful and actually brings so much life to these places. • I think it is good you only cut the verges a couple of times a year and it's great seeing the wildflowers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban and suburban areas - stop spraying for the love of God! • Local authorities need to set a positive example, currently this is lacking e.g. verge and hedge cutting at inappropriate times, not overseeing the maintenance of ditches and verges; not maintaining drainage assets • Palatine Park in Worthing had a wild area behind some fencing which has recently been decimated by council workers who have cut everything back to the ground. I know there would have been insects hibernating in the vegetation which have been destroyed. • Stop the strimming! Restore verges! Plant more wildflowers Plant more hedgerows, shrubs/trees on any available small plots/corners of streets, on greens, in alcoves. Move solar panels from fields to town and city rooftops. Pass bye-laws prohibiting land owners in towns from paving all their front gardens. Make more TPOs to prevent casual/ill-considered tree-felling, such as the one at Chichester College.



WS Qual: Corridors (mentions by West Sussex respondents)

Loss or pressures on corridors

Sample comments:

- **Wildlife corridors** are disappearing fast
- Similar habitats are often isolated from each other... a joined-up strategy is needed to encourage growth....
- I am very concerned that the **wildlife corridors** are being constantly "nibbled at" by housing developments and are not being safe guarded by the local authorities
- Please stop building new houses and **destroying wildlife corridors**
- There is a desperate need for **more wildlife corridors** throughout the county.
- Don't cut the verges!! These are a **key part of wildlife corridors**.
- House building east of Chichester has **reduced critical woodland corridors**
- I understand the desperate need for new housing but a lot of the land used has diminished habitats in the **corridors** between the downs and the sea.

Habitats that act as corridors

- See comments on Hedgerows (slide 13)

Want to see recovered

Sample comments

- We could be planting up pockets of land not currently being used, so that they **create islands for wildlife**.
- **Wildlife corridors are key**, especially within the Chichester District, due to the amount of development on the east (Bognor - Brighton) and west (Emsworth - Southampton) we need to be resilient to climate change (draught and flooding) and species movement.
- **Wildlife corridors** need enhancing and enlarging
- Genuine **corridors** through towns and villages
- Green corridors (undeveloped land in **migration routes** eg the Lavant)
- Greenbelt corridors between housing areas.
- increase in wildflowers and **establishing pollinator highways** for insects to travel along
- Linking habitats together **wildlife corridors**
- More trees and hedgerows (urban and rural) to **connect larger tracts of open/green space**.
- More wildflowers and **wildlife corridors**
- Too many green areas are isolated from each other... more **connected wildlife corridors** are need
- We need **alleyways of pollinating plants**
- Need well planned **wildlife corridors** NOW
- If housing is built, protect the wild **hedgerows**, fit **hedgehog highways**. **Wildlife corridors**.
- Please don't ignore the initiative **for wildlife corridors** - eg protecting a wide enough area around the Lavant so that migrating species can get into the National Park from the coast.

WS Qual: related to wider environmental benefits or needs

Flooding & drought

- Stop building on the land around Horsham. It is causing **flooding** everywhere because the flood plains have been built on.
- Please sort out the **flooding** infrastructure properly before allowing further development.
- I worry that the amount of new housing being built is causing a lot of **flooding** and also taking away wildlife habitats. EG the housing estate between East Grinstead and St Hill Road - since it's been built the road **floods** a lot.
- Stopping population growing in our area at the detriment to the management of **flooding** and removal of existing habitats which can not be replaced.
- I come from Somerset, so **flooding** is normal, enjoy it, don't build on it!
- We need to be resilient to climate change (draught & flooding) and species movement.
- With every building plan that is approved we are told that nature will not be affected. However, the road outside our house now literally becomes a river with only fairly light rainfall.
- Feel very strongly we have to look at the impact that building new houses has on **flooding** and associated habitat.
- Government targets for building more houses in Sussex is in conflict with nature recovery strategies. Polluted chalk streams and **flooding** are a big concern.
- Why do houses keep being built in the Bognor Regis area causing more pollution from cars, **flooding** due to concreting over more of the soak away land and wildlife destruction?
- Beavers, where they might ameliorate downstream **flooding**

Air, noise and light pollution

- When I visit other areas I feel proud to live in West Sussex. It's a shame that the roads often clog up which adds more to **air pollution**
- **Increased air, noise and light pollution** due to higher volumes of traffic, aircraft and people.
- Loss of dark sky at night due to **light pollution** from new house building Increased **noise pollution** from more homes & traffic.
- Massive development in Southwater on green field sites, all concreted over. Old trees cut down. **Light pollution.**
- Light pollution - birds singing after sundown
- Flooding caused by building on floodplains and pollution both from cars **and light pollution**
- Habitat loss due to overdevelopment of new properties, **noise pollution.**

Carbon / Climate

- The trees will need to get a lot bigger to provide attractive greenery and offer a **carbon-capturing** canopy - when this happens they'll outgrow the large pots and then what?!

Shade



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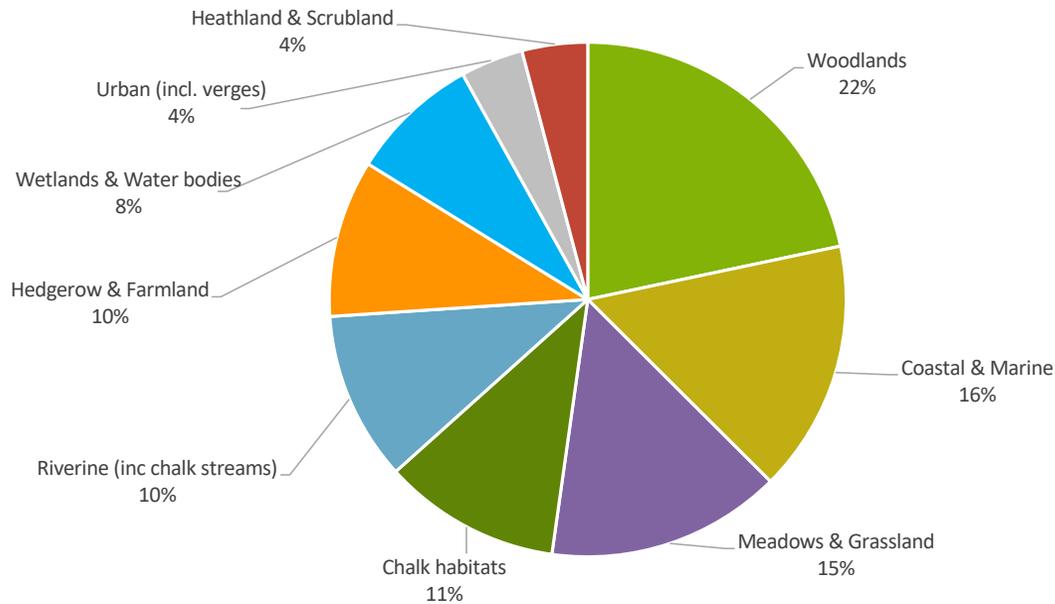
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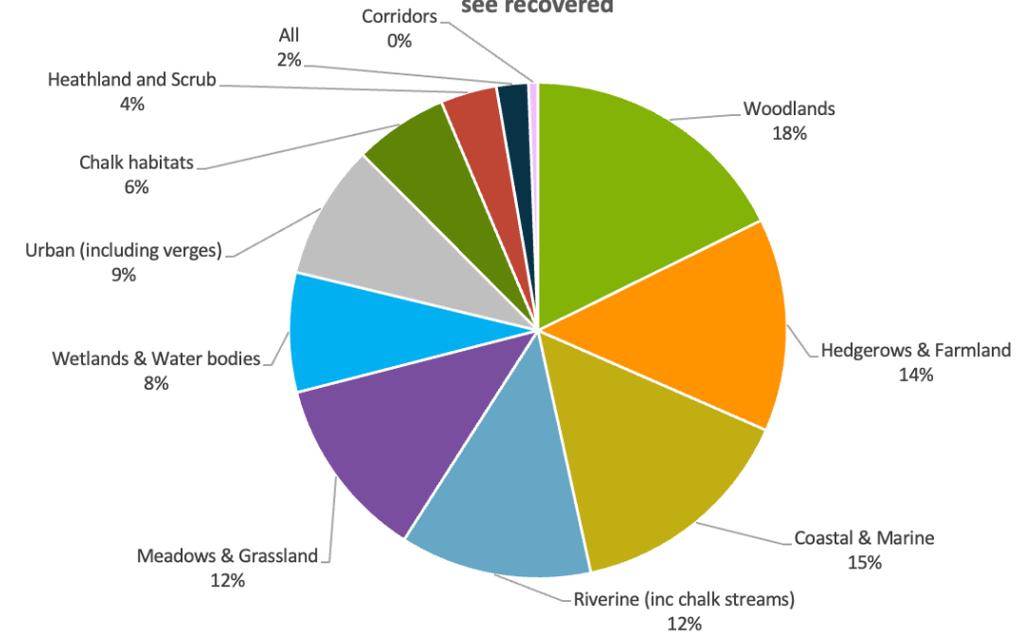


ES Quant: % of habitat types mentioned by respondents

Most loved/valued habitats of respondents in East Sussex and B&H



Habitats East Sussex and B&H respondents think are particularly at risk or would like to see recovered



Please note: The figures shown in the charts above have been derived from analysing free text responses and are indicative rather than being exact. For example, though both questions asked for a habitat, some of the answers provided were places in Sussex. Where a place is characterised by a specific habitat type, that habitat was recorded (e.g. Shoreham beach = coastal, South Downs National Park = chalk habitats). Where a mix of habitats are found at a place, none was recorded. Where multiple habitats were listed in a single free text answer, only the first habitat was recorded.

The two charts also differ in that the right-hand chart (habitats that respondents particularly think are at risk/would like to see recovered) includes 'all' and 'corridors' due to a greater presence of these in answers.

ES Qual: Woodland (inc Ancient)

Ranked 1st Favourite habitat: 22%

Ranked 1st Want to see it recovered: 18%

What respondents value

Biodiversity	Connection to place/heritage	Health & wellbeing benefits	Ecosystem services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insects, bats, butterflies • Home to many resident bird species and some summer visitors too breed there too. • Bluebells, wood anemone, fungi • Wet ancient woodland under which bluebells, anemone, garlic thrive creating habits for newts, toads, bats, dormice, etc. • Bluebells, red listed birds including nightingale, badger sets • The primroses kick it all off in February and the succession of celandines, wood anemone and bluebells. Birdsong. I'm a sucker for Woodland bathing! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Of Ancient woodland - Heritage, old, woodland wildlife and irreplaceable • Both the trees and the soil of ancient woodland are relics of history. Even whilst decaying, dead and rotting trees harbour a multitude of life. • Who does not enjoy a walk in the woods? Each has its own character and interest and we are lucky that Sussex is such a wooded county. • I spent my Childhood exploring them and learnt my first bryophytes and ferns in them. • An invaluable wildlife habitat and an intrinsic part of our local heritage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When I am in the woods bathing in birdsong and the gentle whisper of wind through the leaves, I am standing in Heaven. • How all woods are unique, the tranquillity in being surrounded by nature • Calming effect on mental health, beautiful at every time of year • Trees provide solace and quiet. I'm in touch with the changing seasons. • I know how important they are to individual and global health • Places to escape from modern living. High biodiversity value. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trees help suck up excess water in the land and provide habitats for many species. They also provide shade - crucial with global warming • Peace, good for environment and air quality, green, wildlife • With ancient woodland indicators, a microclimate, good for surface cooling effects, the woodland is one of the super-habitats • Supports biodiversity, carbon lock, beautiful • Essential and valuable resource with untapped potential • They sustain so much life, benefit air quality, sequester carbon, and look lovely.

What they've noticed

Pressures	Loss of habitat	Poor condition	Loss or impact to species
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bare woodlands with no ground cover, just bracken and too many deer. • Woodland not being managed so being taken over by invasive sycamore. Dead ash not being removed • Increased people and dogs have impacted woodlands • Erosion on forest and in ancient woodland causing flooding • Loss of woodland due to tree death through disease or water stress. • Deer are increasing with no effective control except deer proof fencing. Woodland needs funding to protect from deer browsing or more will disappear to scrub. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of habitat especially woodland cover has driven birds out • Woodland habitat decreasing for housing. • Too many houses, necessitating cutting down woodlands • We are losing our woodlands often to developers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ash dieback affecting woodland - dead trees and impact of mechanical removal. • Poor management of woodland, overuse of woodland paths • Coppiced woodland no longer being managed. • Deterioration of some woodlands, where not managed properly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less wildlife in woods than ever before. • To wild birds (loss of woodland and hedgerows) • It would be nice to see the return of the smaller fritillary butterflies that were so common in the 1950's.

ES Qual: Woodland (inc Ancient) cont.

Ranked 1st Favourite habitat: 22%

Ranked 1st Want to see it recovered: 18%

What they want to see

Protected	Bigger	Better	More joined up
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Popular bluebell woods need urgent protection - for example in Stanmer park. Too many people trample on them, cyclist ride over them. Woodlands - Building is encroaching on the edges of Ashdown Forest Ancient woodland MUST be protected to continue to give a sense of history. Vital to protect all ancient woodlands from development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Woodlands could be created by allowing redundant fields to succeed into forest. More deciduous woodland More woodland - we have very little woodland and tree cover in and around Brighton More woodland and wild growth Bigger woodland to replace the ancient forest Woodland - definitely much more needed! More areas should be returned to wild / secondary forest, and there should be less (ideally no) livestock farming 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We need to be culling deer, especially the non-native species... deer cause a lot of damage to woodlands and their numbers are excessive. Equally, grey squirrels cause damage to woodlands and outcompete many other tree dwelling species. Varied broadleaf woodland with woodpasture and scrub Better management of forests. Coppiced woodland – overstood Woodland and forest especially ancient woodland Woodlands managed for plants, birds and insects Woodlands need to be managed - not just left for brambles and invasive species to take over Subsidise coppice management Yew / hawthorn urban Woodlands; more sensitive management with local inclusion (feels at times it's imposed rather than collaborative) 	

Other

Positive changes seen	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During our most recent breeding birds survey at Laughton Greenwood we recorded an increase in bird species, including some that are not that common in East Sussex. There also appear to be more dragonflies around this year. In woods and local pond I have noticed increased wildlife and more different species. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> My dream is that our local woods is bought up and managed by the local community for wildlife, for nature conservation, education, and enjoyment rather than profit and personal ownership with no regulation. The UK has a very low woodland cover compared to most other European counties, so the scraps that remain feel very precious both as a habitat and as an escape and wellbeing boost for people I miss the vastness of it and seeing more diverse Woodland floor flora as there is not that many woodland areas in East Sussex

ES Qual: Coastal/Marine

Ranked 2nd Favourite habitat: 16%

Ranked 3rd Want to see it recovered: 15%

What respondents value

Biodiversity	Connection to place/heritage	Health & Wellbeing benefits	Specific habitats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marvellous starling displays • Kelp forest regeneration and marine mammals • Attract wildlife and enable nesting, e.g. fulmars and rock pippits • Plants and rock pool species • Birds - oyster catchers, curlews, egrets, terns and cormorants. • Fulmar nesting, oystercatchers, egrets etc in rock pools • Shoreline flora and fauna • Seals and dolphins • The three-dimensional marine habitats off the Sussex coast are so diverse. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defines East Sussex • I love the variety of habitats in Sussex, having the sea on our doorstep (and accessible) is very special • It is still a place where people congregate to engage with nature. The life found in rockpools is fascinating and otherworldly, and the opportunity to see Fulmar and Peregrines • It's a unique aspect of Brighton & Hove that we have the beach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can always look different, great for mental health • Dynamic. A sense of wonder at life's adaptability • It is the best place for wellbeing and stunning views. • Wide open spaces and unexpected encounters with nature • An unbroken horizon, relaxation, free space to exercise, beach combing! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sand banks - Habitats for sand martins • Shingle at rye/Winchelsea - Rare habitat <p>Vegetated shingle:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • incredible species living in one of the most difficult environments. • Marine kale or cabbage and horn poppies and vipers bugloss - spectacular. And I don't mind valerian either although it's a sneaky non-native. <p>Saltmarsh</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extremely important flood defence • Importance to overwintering ducks & geese • Another undervalued and under-appreciated habitat, of Sussex holds a lot of.

What they've noticed

Pressures	Loss of habitat	Poor condition	Loss or impact to species
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As a regular sea swimmer I am appalled at the amount of pollution damaging our seas and rivers meaning we are often unable to go in the water • The sea water quality in my area is horrendous, with companies sending sewage out into in regularly • Negative - pollution of sea by sewage/water companies. • Coastal erosion is not being managed properly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chalk cliffs along the seafront are eroding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Huge marine changes from storms/mismanagement. Shingle beaches becoming sand/clay sludge and coastal damage increasing. • Sewage in the sea, now having to check before swimming • The beach is often dirty with plastic and various items of litter washed up from the sea or dropped by visitors/residents. • Too many wind turbines disturbing marine habitats. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cliff fall at the kittiwake nesting area at Seaford Head - will they nest here again? • Pollution on the beaches and in the water affect sea birds. • Coastal habitats seem depleted, I generally see little to no wildlife along the seafront from Eastbourne to Seaford. • Rock pools don't have as much diversity of species in them.

ES Qual: Coastal/Marine Cont.

Ranked 2nd Favourite habitat: 16%

Ranked 3rd Want to see it recovered: 15%

What they want to see

Protected	Bigger	Better	More joined up
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coastal areas - protection from development Marine habitats in general - increased full habitat protection – HMPAs Keep the sewage out of the sea 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recover Kelp beds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rockpools/coastal marine habitats. Less fishing to leave species to flourish Quality of sea water for marine life Quality of sea water, less bottom trawling, cleaner beaches Recovery of native fish and seaweed 	

Other

Positive changes seen	Other comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marine habitats improving as trawling stopped I think the trawler ban and restoration of kelp forests on the Sussex coast is really important for biodiversity and carbon sequestration More sea kale on the beach which is positive. The sea seems generally clearer and cleaner looking than when i was a child in the 70s despite what we hear about sewage discharges. Positive changes are the planting along Brighton beach of native species in the shingle. Some improvements /greater activation of people to run beach cleans/local spaces. More salt marsh An increase in marine mammal activity - seals, dolphins and porpoises 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The plant life in the sea can help to absorb Co2 and we need to keep the sea clean so that the marine life can be healthy. The sea. It's a disgrace that I don't feel safe to swim in the sea.



ES Qual: Grassland and meadows

Ranked 3rd Favourite habitat: 15%

Ranked 5th Want to see it recovered: 12%

What respondents value

Biodiversity	Scarcity	Ecosystem services
<p>Meadows</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I love flowers and the insects that live around them Wild flowers, bees, butterflies, ladybirds They are beautiful, full of wildlife activity, and so rare these days. Provide home and food for bees, butterflies and insects Rare and beautiful flowers and insects, but the number have reduced massively and need regeneration Species rich and diverse <p>Grassland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides important places for ground nesting birds and insects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have so few Meadows but there are a few locally which are a joy and should be protected Acid grassland - Because it is rare and needs more protection for unusual species 	<p>Grassland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ancient, perfect, carbon capture, support invertebrates and other wildlife Country walking, abundance of wildlife these eco systems support <p>Meadows</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carbon lock, beautiful, supports pollinators

What they've noticed

Pressures	Loss of habitat / impact to species	Positive changes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Less wildflower meadows due to farming methods Too many of our meadows being ripped up for housing developments Increased people and dogs have impacted flower meadows, making paths wider and encroaching on wildflowers, scrub, with knock-on effect on birds, mammals etc Grassland earmarked for development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fewer hay meadows Meadows ploughed out Meadows have been lost due to urbanisation, new houses being built. Monoculture meadows Lack of traditional wild flower rich pasture & meadows Too much herbicide and rye grass. Needs reversing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nationally it is becoming smaller, but it is protected to some extent in East Sussex

What they want to see

Protected	Bigger/Better	Recovery of species	More joined up
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mixed species Meadows We need more meadows Unimproved meadows I would like to see more grass meadows Wildflower rich grassland - low land meadows. Properly managed species rich grasslands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grassland for species such as Skylarks 	

ES Qual: Chalk habitats

Ranked 4th Favourite habitat: 11%

Ranked 8th Want to see it recovered: 6%

What respondents value

Biodiversity

- Rare **butterflies, birds and wild flowers**
- A place where you can see moon carrots, orchids and cowslips.
- All sorts of habitats for **birds, rabbits, foxes** etc
- The Chalk habitats provide **wild flowers** and a huge **butterfly** population
- When uncultivated it has a wonderful array of **wild plants and animals**
- Chalk grassland - just so excitingly special and rich

Connection to place/heritage

- On the South Downs this is one of the **unique natural habitats** of this county and so little of it is left. **Thousands of years of grazing** has created an incredible array of bespoke biodiversity not found anywhere else.
- Has to be the South Downs so **iconic**
- **Unique** to this area.

Health & wellbeing benefits

- Wonderful **walking**, and rich with wildlife in places
- Amazing views. **Tranquillity**
- The **space** and vastness of the downs is **wonderful**, the changing appearance throughout the seasons.

Important but fragmented

- Chalk grassland is **damaged** and fragmented from farming practices
- **Internationally renowned** habitat and in **decline**.
- Sussex chalk grassland is of **national importance** as a very rare and biodiverse habitat. I think we need to value it, educate people about it and protect it from development or degradation.
- **Internationally rare** and highly biodiverse, with many species of plant and invertebrate unique to the habitat.

What they've noticed

Pressures

- Chalk grassland not being **grazed properly** and **scrubby vegetation** taking over the flowers.
- **Overgrazing** by sheep has killed some of the chalk grasslands.

Loss of habitat

- Loss of habitat on downs

Poor condition

- Deterioration of chalk grassland due to **poor grazing management**
- Encroachment of **bramble, scrub and secondary woodland** over good-quality semi improved grassland and chalk grassland, and the loss of associated species.

Loss or impact to species

- As a child I remember seeing **Lapwings** on the Downs but now very rarely
- I have seen far **fewer rabbits and hedgehogs** on and around the Downs

What they want to see

Good practices

- I have seen some fantastic chalk grassland in bloom with many **invertebrates** - that seems to have got better.
- Areas of Chalk Grassland **recovered** on sites such as White hawk Hill.
- The creation of Bee banks across the city of Brighton and Hove has brought **fragments of Downland habitat** back into the city.
- Waterhall wilding project

Bigger

- **More** chalk grassland

Better

- Especially contiguous rather than fragments
- Permanent pasture on downland and marshes. These areas should not be ploughed.

Recovery of chalk species

- Wild flowers unique to chalk downland
- Chalk Carpet Moth
- Chalk Grassland plants and insects
- Chalkhill blue butterfly

ES Qual: Rivers & catchments

Ranked 5th Favourite habitat: 11%

Ranked 4th Want to see it recovered: 12%

What respondents value

Biodiversity	Importance	Health & wellbeing benefits	Chalk Streams
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chalk banks full of rabbit holes with wildflowers and a variety of grasses Spawning trout My local river has kingfishers, herons, coots, ducks and an array of plant life along its banks Fantastic for birds Stunning fauna.. the sounds, the smells, the mosses and lichens If left undisturbed they are a haven for birds, small mammals, fish 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [Ouse] Tidal and unique. Joins the inland countryside to the sea. Often brings the seal into Lewes. I have seen kingfishers on the banks and love the history of its use. History, bring life to the rest of the environment. Irreplaceable arteries of life Because they are the vascular system of living landscapes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The sound of the water and the possibility of seeing a flash of blue - a kingfisher! For walking and bird watching With my dad we enjoy this for fishing and quiet reflection I grew up swimming, rowing on, and floating down rivers with friends and family; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Because these are so rare, its a privilege to know that there are some nearby. Severely threatened. they're so important for the ecosystem

What they've noticed

Pressures	Loss of habitat	Poor condition	Loss or impact to species
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> River and stream banks too managed/dredged, too much bankside vegetation cleared. Killing of streams and rivers due to sewage discharges and runoff. Water ways polluted, and too many water ways being used by people so wildlife doesn't have any safe space it can enjoy without disruption Local streams and river grossly polluted. I have spotted more invasive species and their impact in particular on rivers and aquatic habitats. We should prevent their sale and work across organisations to stop them getting a foothold Rivers seem dirtier and many such as Shortbridge stream are often blocked with debris. Flooding on the brooks along the Ouse between Lewes and Newhaven has increased due to wet winters. I've noticed different birds as a result. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All the streams are dead, thanks to all of the livestock pesticides and the horrific mismanagement of the entire water cycle by profit hungry water firms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sussex rivers are precious but in poor condition and we need to reduce sewage outflows into them to protect what wonderful species remain. Rivers and the sea that I used to swim in as a child are no longer safe. Cuckmere Haven beach and river is full of plastic - it wasn't like that 40 years ago. It makes me cry. High levels of apparent pollution in river Rother. Regular water testing of the Ouse and surrounding streams by a local group has shown the water to be in a very poor condition. The Cuckmere River was depleted of oxygen when the flow was restricted. There were large numbers of dead fish as a result of this. The Ouse looks dirty, you don't see many fish 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant decrease in wildlife in and around local rivers/streams - very few insects so also fewer mammals and amphibians Rivers/streams increasingly polluted and supporting less species. Huge amounts of sewage going into rivers and seas causing deaths of fish stocks and other creatures. The Ouse needs urgent attention, species such as sea trout need fish bridges and cleaned up rivers to link to Ashdown Forest. Baseline SxBRC reports for severe reduction in endangered fish species... urgent action needed Fewer birds on the River Cuckmere Used to be small fishes in a little stream running near to the Cuckoo trail. They are no longer there because the fields all around have been built on. Used to see kingfishers daily in the drainage ditches of the Cuckmere but the estuary mouth got blocked and floods ensued. Ditches not

ES Qual: Rivers & catchments cont.

Ranked 5th Favourite habitat: 11%

Ranked 4th Want to see it recovered: 12%

What they want to see

Protected	Supporting more species	Better	More joined up
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chalk streams need cleaning up and protecting from pollution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clean rivers so that fish can flourish Flooding of the Brooks south of Hamsey. Important for Herons and Cormorants and Egrets. Otters / Water Vole as shows healthy rivers Recover all river fish Recover Fresh water fish - killed off by pollution in streams and lakes and rivers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cleaner rivers and sea for species and wild swimming More reed beds for wildlife and for flood prevention. Bushes along the river for birds to nest in River Rother from Robertsbridge to Rye. Managed as a channel for marginal farming benefit. Surely it's time to get rid of the levy / artificial banking and let the river take back its course. Control pollution, revegetate banks Healthy riverbanks 	

Other

Positive changes seen	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Positive improvements to local streams. A wetland site has recently been created in Lewes as a river was meandered. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stop water companies polluting the rivers and sea and stop building houses on floodplains Ban any sewage in streams, rivers or sea. Stop covering the countryside with houses and taking more and more water from the rivers and aquifers. It is a scandal that streams and rivers are so polluted. It is appalling that Southern Water is responsible for this. It's like going back 200-300 years.



ES Qual: Farmland & hedgerows

Ranked 6th Favourite habitat: 10%

Ranked 2nd Want to see it recovered: 14%

What respondents value

Biodiversity	Visible on the landscape/heritage	Hedgerows as wildlife Corridors	Scarcity
<p>Hedgerows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I have observed some wonderful bird life including a young owl in hedgerows whilst walking Birds moths, flowers, butterflies For Everything - bees, birds, shelter for all wildlife Wildflowers and hedge plants (I'm a bit of a spotter for hazel, holly, honeysuckle, wild service and more). Alive with different trees and shrubs and butterflies A place where there is some protection for small mammals and plenty of food for birds and insects. <p>Field Margins</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Semi-natural wildlife co-exists with some human habitation 	<p>Farmland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Important to our country's way of life The rarity of the medieval field system Grazing - Sense of connection with the rhythm of rural life <p>Hedgerows</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> They tell a story of the land and connect habitats All along our local lanes, full of different species of trees, shrubs and wildflowers Bird song / sheer beauty of the historic land marks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Underrated wildlife havens Hedgerows are majorly important corridors for wildlife, providing food and shelter and connecting fragmented habitats. Declining significantly nationally but crucial for wildlife. Also act as a corridor which can then link sites together. Amazing for wildlife. Allows wildlife to travel under cover. Colourful at different times of year. Connecting nature in sometimes urban settings Great nature corridor. Love seeing the birds, mice and caterpillars Highways for wildlife 	<p>Farmland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> But, they are getting built on, with too many houses <p>Hedgerows</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We need them reinstated as important. A dwindling but vital resource for wildlife

What they've noticed

Pressures	Loss of habitat	Poor condition	Loss or impact to species
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I notice that hedges around fields are continually flailed at times when fruits/nuts should be left to grow to provide food for wild creatures. Flailing rips the hedgerows apart allowing diseases to attack them Removal of hedgerows and introduction of obstructive, useless fences instead Continued use of chemicals across farmland Intensive farming of arable land - damage to soil & field edges Damage to farmland by inconsiderate walkers especially those with dogs People are not generally trained in how to cut hedges in traditional ways for maximum regenerative effect. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of farmland habitat due to building of new housing Hedgerows ripped out, or not kept in good quality. Locally many fields and meadows have been lost due to urbanisation, new houses being built. Very old hedgerows have been removed by the owner which is detrimental to the area Hedgerow destruction Fields too large, loss of mosaic habitat and small areas of woodland, marsh, ponds, scrub. The continuous march of development on green spaces and re-purposing of agricultural land. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hedgerows turning to lines of trees. hedgerows ripped out/fields ploughed and left barren In my immediate surroundings, field margins have been eroded and hedgerows cut back severely Hedgerows chopped back and nesting roosting places decimated The hedgerows are poorly managed and are in a definite state of deterioration in my local area Too much fertiliser and lack of care of the soil etc Increasingly intensive arable farming practices including use of chemicals. Careless damage to hedges and trees locally 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farmland devoid of wildlife because of chemicals and pesticides Gone are the turtle doves and other species such as lesser spotted woodpecker, nightingale and many farmland birds, such as skylarks and, yellowhammers and linnets have vastly reduced in abundance. Lovely fields covered with new houses makes wildlife relocate Farmers ploughing field verges really close to fence and ancient hedge and tree lines leaving no space for wildflowers for bees and other insects and birds and small mammals to shelter, feed, live in and travel through. Almost total lack of birdlife in rural flailed

Qual: Farmland & hedgerows cont.

Ranked 6th Favourite habitat: 10%

Ranked 2nd Want to see it recovered: 14%

What they want to see

Protected	Bigger	Better	More joined up
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace/keep hedgerows and edges of crop fields • The protection and continuation of the historical landscape, countryside culture and farming. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More butterfly friendly vegetation on field edges and allow the backs of verges to also support this vegetation • More enlightened farming methods which work equally well for farmers and wildlife. • Recovery of Hedgerows in particular as they are so important to wildlife • Wild hedges and verges; more of these; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We need better solutions for agricultural run-off • Field margins and headlands restored • More regenerative and sustainable farmland 	

Other

Positive changes seen	Other comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More wildflower strips in farmland. • However, there are also positive changes with the local farmer creating hedgerows, leaving fields for skylarks • Great to see hedgerows being reintegrated into field margins after so many were removed. • I have noticed more wildflowers allowed to thrive in hedgerows • Fields North of Cooksbridge are beautiful and teeming with wildlife despite poor farming practices. • The previous tenant farmer sowed a crop of wild flowers that was amazing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank goodness farmers are no longer given grants to remove hedgerows. These are essential wildlife corridors. • A move to sustainable farming that works with nature is absolutely essential • Management needs to work for landowners and farmers as well as the public, so their involvement and support is essential • I hope you can work with local farmers to improve nature and farm more sustainably. • For Skylarks we need scrapes in the middle of fields not at margins



ES Qual: Wetlands & Water bodies

Ranked 7th Favourite habitat: 8%

Ranked 6th Want to see it recovered: 8%

What respondents value

Biodiversity	Ecosystem services	Importance & scarcity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wetlands are natural environment for sea birds and Marsh Harrier Wetland....habitat for a myriad of creatures Seeing migrating birds and butterflies Marshes, fen raft spiders , birds this seems to be what attracts the most diverse wildlife in our built up town, we have many species on our local Water bodies – lakes. Easy to see wildlife (birds, dragonflies etc) Excellent place for migratory birds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> They are so integral to our landscape and have a profound effect on the recent flooding issues As well as the benefits to a range of biodiversity, will become increasingly valuable for flood management. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Again, something which was a strong feature of Sussex but which is under increasing pressure Essential part of countryside management & for wildlife. A tremendously threatened habitat, replete with species, which flies in the face of the neat and tidy brigade So many have been destroyed and they support so much diversity.

What they've noticed

Pressures	Loss of habitat	Poor condition	Loss or impact to species
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local lakes affected by landowners (fishing) and also run off from adjacent farmland They are more under pressure of irreversible eutrophication than almost any other habitat, and also from becoming dryer due to climate change and abstraction. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Property developers have eliminated wetlands, lakes/ponds Attempts to build on wetland areas Wetland turned into housing projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noise and disturbance at Bewl water which was a tranquil wilderness. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 ,the same goes for my garden ponds .

What they want to see

Positive actions	Bigger	Better	More joined up
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The dew pond at Seaford Head Nature Reserve has been restored and is an ongoing project. Rare wildlife can be found there. On the positive, it's been great to see the good work of Lewes District Council and wildlife groups on the Cockshut wetlands project. In the local pond i have noticed increased wildlife and more different species. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I would like to see more water areas, such as dew ponds wildlife ponds - would love to see more More Water meadows Wetlands of all sorts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ponds (ancient) should have special protection. 	

ES Qual: Urban (incl verges)

Ranked 8th Favourite habitat: 4%

Ranked 7th Want to see it recovered: 9%

What respondents value

Biodiversity

- Buildings - Habitat for **swifts** and **house martins**
- Lots of **wildlife** living and loving the allotments
- Verges - Nice to see **bees, butterflies** etc enjoying nature/flowers
- Wildflower verges are a massive refuge for scarce and declining **plants**, and the animals that rely on them. Pollinators, including beetles, flies, butterflies and bats, are in serious decline from over management. They are also wildlife corridors for insects.
- See **swifts** nesting and flying feeding above town
- Local verges act as wildlife and insect corridors but sadly the erosion of the verges by traffic is a threat to this habitat.

Accessibility/Havens

- (Lawn Cemetery) It is a small ecosystem, woods, open grassland and the natural burial ground is a small nature reserve protected by hedgerows.

Health & wellbeing benefits

- Having **tree-lined streets** is a real joy, especially for those of us living in flats with no garden
- Local park - Local to me and a **good space to walk** amongst the trees and be in nature
- In a built up area lovely to see range of **birds and foxes, rabbits**
- Urban **gardens** and **street trees** contributes to **natural diversity** and public **mental health**.

Improvements at home

- Wildlife garden - attracts a diverse range of birds and creatures
- The wildlife in my pond, the slow worms, lizards, birds & insects
- Bird-feeder in garden - increase in birds calling in - different species including woodpecker (once!)

What they've noticed

Pressures

- **Too many new houses** = too much concrete, too many sterile gardens, FAR TOO MUCH **light pollution**, not great for wildlife and humans
- The **increase in traffic** and the speed of traffic is having a negative impact on local flora and fauna.
- **Litter litter litter** and **parks being mowed and cut too often**.
- **Poor management** of parks in the community and youth vandalism, poor pet management
- **Roadside verges** if cut too often and the wrong time of year and the cuttings left to rot down thus enriching the soil to much to encourage the wildflowers .

Loss of habitat

- Most obvious locally is the paving over of **front gardens**
- Decrease of large **urban trees** in my neighbourhood
- Many **fewer trees** in the urban landscape.
- More building in the city taking over green spaces.
- Mowing of **verges** while orchids are in flower was particularly heartbreaking last summer
- In my town, it seems a lot of beautiful green spaces that are habitats to many are being taken away due to the building of more homes.

Poor condition

- **Unnecessary cutting** of verges by councils
- **Over-management** of urban green spaces
- Councils not cleaning up **rubbish** from roads side and vergers.
- Reduction in birds and insects visiting gardens or green spaces, use of **herbicides** on roadways near houses
- **Not enough tree planting** across the city, we will need the shade and the carbon sequestration
- verges - cars and trucks parking on them, wear them away to the chalk base, rain water drains straight off it onto the pavements and roads.
- -

Loss or impact to species

- Central Woodingdean was a haven for wildlife especially **lizards/slowworms** the area was built on with no regard of the wildlife.
- **Smaller range of song birds** in the garden over the last few years e.g. no more wrens, blackbirds, long tailed tits, coal tits or thrushes. **Fewer insects** in the garden.
- A lot of **dead/dying bees** when walking around Brighton and Hove. Not as many **butterflies** within the city.
- I see **foxes** in daylight now. I assume this is due to habitats being lost forcing them into urban areas.
- Decrease in the less common wildlife species but some increases in more common 'urban' species
- We no longer find hedgehogs in our garden

ES Qual: Urban (incl verges) cont.

Ranked 8th Favourite habitat: 4%

Ranked 7th Want to see it recovered: 9%

What they want to see

Protected	Bigger	Better	More joined up
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No to glyphosate being reintroduced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plant more trees in urban areas More trees planted in cities and considered as part of the planning of an area More trees in streets for wildlife and shade I like to see meadow areas created in parks For urban development to include preservation or creation of "nature oases". Plant trees for shade and shelter. Urban tree cover is ever more important for moderating heat and pollution Small green areas and trees in towns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Red listed birds such as swifts, house martins, house sparrows, starlings and others are desperately in need of nesting opportunities to halt their decline. We need far more large scale nesting bricks/cups/boxes installed. Verges better managed for wildlife Folks need to create Hedgehog highways by making gaps in their garden fencing at ground level More regular pruning of hedges in public parks , and walking areas, so that they don't have to be hacked to death Continue to rewild central reservations and verges to encourage wildlife 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wildflower verges are a massive refuge for scarce and declining plants, and the animals that rely on them. Pollinators, including beetles, flies, butterflies and bats, are in serious decline from over management. They are also wildlife corridors for insects. I would like all the council departments to work together to insulate homes, provide green corridors in urban areas and encourage sustainable development on brownfield sites with connected wildlife areas as a default

Other

Positive changes seen	Other comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local groups litter picking and improving their parks. Cemeteries -Often well cared for, micro eco-systems, needs grant funding My local Council plants patches of amenity land with wild flowers and grasses which is wonderful for the insects. Increase in uncut grass areas in urban areas, with more wild flowers. Our garden has many more birds since we stopped being so eager to cut our small lawn or clip our hedges. As a member of Saltdean Climate Action Network we have planted trees and are adopting a public garden. Local park installed two ponds which now have tadpoles Positive - planting of cherry trees in local parks. Many communities, including ours, have volunteer groups that work extremely hard to remove litter to prevent even more damage to wildlife. More city areas left wild or less managed. No glyphosate weed killer used in last few years has increased biodiversity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I live in Seaford and I am forced to breathe Glyphosates when the verges get so long the council use a dangerous chemical banned in Europe, approved by an out of date ESCC individual, I want to see our verges and roundabouts properly looked after, tended and rewilded responsibly. Safe cycle paths linking urban areas to country parks, woodlands etc



ES Qual: Heathland & scrubland

Ranked 9th Favourite habitat: 4%

Ranked 9th Want to see it recovered: 4%

What respondents value

Biodiversity	Landscape character	Scarcity	Under valued
<p>Heathland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For their Dartford warblers and redstarts and woodlarks Diversity of butterflies, vascular plants and lichens Lowland Heath is another favourite habitat for spotting wildlife, flora, fauna and fungi. Birds like Dartford Warbler plus raft spiders Adders, birds of prey, yellow gorse, bracken and shrubs. <p>Scrubland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Really important for wildlife 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Streams and waterfalls sandy open tracks with broken and gorse bird's nest habitat adders and reptiles Heathland open landscape beautiful views proximity variety of soil types hosting Flora and fauna 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This precious habitat is very fragile and could be easily lost. Sussex is one of the few places on earth that supports this particular habitat. Rare & precious habitat Ashdown Forest is a brilliant example of this unique habitat which is under threat. 	<p>Heathland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understated but special <p>Scrubland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> People don't like mess but sometimes nature is messy and we should learn to love that Scrub! It's so valuable and yet considered worthless.

What they've noticed

Pressures	Loss of habitat	Poor condition	Loss or impact to species
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A lot of scrub clearance. I have also noticed some heathland sites being lost to dense Bracken, something I fear that will get worse now that the Bracken controlling chemical Asulam has not been granted a licence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scrubland being turned into housing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heathland lost to gorse and birch and pine trees that should be controlled 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many native birds needing hedgerow and scrub to nest in

What they want to see

Examples of good practice	Bigger	Better	More joined up
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Positive action on Ditchling and Chailey Commons restoring heath / common land by active scrub clearance and allowing grazing by livestock. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Naturally regeneration of scrubby woodland edges. Note this is not one specific species, rather the provision of conditions for invertebrates and birds to flourish More scrub cover for birds in pastures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restore heathland Heathland and scrub needs better protection from tourists and local residents. 	

ES Qual: Corridors (mentions East Sussex and B&H respondents)

Loss or pressures on corridors

Sample comments

- More and more construction and building and cutting down of meadows and **insects corridors**.
- More Road kill where **wild animal corridors have been broken** meaning their natural routes have been disturbed
- Shrinkage of open wild areas in between the residential areas/agricultural areas/roadways - these are needed for **wildlife corridors**
- There has been such vast amounts of housing development around us especially in Hailsham and Hellingly that although no habitats have been completely destroyed, they have been severely encroached and the wildlife is being constantly pushed back **without managed wildlife corridors** to use
- I am concerned that **contiguous habitat corridors are not being created** and protected from housebuilding and other development
- A lot of the 'green' spaces in Seaford are really fairly barren farmland, with **no corridors** for nature.
- I am extremely lucky, I live in a hugely rich wildlife area on a **wildlife corridor**. We are currently fighting housing developments on our wildlife corridor which will change this and it breaks my heart. There is no mitigation for building on or adjacent to a **wildlife corridor**. This madness must be stopped before they become so degraded and fragmented they can no longer support our wildlife. Identifying and preserving these **corridors** should be your highest priority.
- Increased housing too near to wildlife corridors is causing some species to be disturbed and have less habitat

Want to see recovered

Sample comments

- More wildlife corridors linking existing natural habitats.
- **Connectivity habitat** (hedgerows/woodland) between local reserves and pockets of woodland
- **Habitat corridors** across cities and farms
- Connectivity of nature areas to provide **nature corridors** through the landscape so wildlife can move.
- A joined-up approach to planning that allows **connected spaces for nature** from one area to another including nature tunnels, corridors and bridges.
- I would like all the council departments to work together to insulate homes, **provide green corridors in urban areas** and encourage sustainable development on brownfield sites with **connected wildlife areas** as a default.
- More work needs to be done by joined up thinking on planning issues to ensure **habitat corridors** ancient woodlands streams rivers and grasslands are connected to allow natural movement of wildlife
- Please make sure the two country parks on either side of Hastings are included in the Nature Recovery Strategy as well as **all our green corridors** into the town and our urban parks and green spaces.

Habitats that act as corridors

- See comments about Hedgerows (slide 34)



ES Qual: related to wider environmental benefits or needs

Flooding & drought

- More extensive **flooding** has damaged some fields more than usual. Very dry summers just dry them out.
- Erosion on forest and in ancient woodland causing **flooding**
- Negative - new building on green spaces, **flooding** where previously there wasn't
- Development on AONB and green spaces which has caused flooding.
- **Flooding** is increasing massively.
- **Flooding** to riverbanks and glens
- I have seen more **flooding** in Cooksbridge.
- Constant developments on farmland is exacerbating **flooding** issues across surrounding habitats with less smaller rodents, insects, bird's and mammals.
- Real concern is the **flooding** and the landslips taking place and natural solutions to mitigate these concerns
- I live in Rodmell and have seen the fields around our village flooded more than I've ever seen this year. This is a concern as it is an SSSI area.
- Climate change means more **flooded** paths in winter and less access for walking.
- Would love to see the re-introduction of beavers - with special benefits to **flood damage** reduction.

Carbon / Climate

- I am concerned that local district planning policy is not focussed enough on local government departments working better together to give space to nature and meet **carbon reduction** targets.
- Trees provide habitats for wildlife, **absorb Carbon dioxide** and have the potential to reduce flooding.
- We need to give nature priority in law, we have taken ecosystem services for granted for too long and the **climate** and nature crisis is so urgent that profit and convenience for humans cannot be placed above Nature any more....I would like to see planning decisions give habitats and species far more importance and developers, water companies and other corporations given far harsher penalties for polluting.

Air, noise and light pollution

- Traffic noise has increased, there is more **traffic pollution** in the air.
- Far more cars **noise pollution** so less birds and wildlife
- There are more roads and cars, which makes me think **air pollution** is worse.
- Too many nutrients from dogs and **air pollution**.
- There has been noticeable loss of habitat from over development and increased **light pollution** resulting in less birds, bats and insects.
- too many new houses = too much concrete, too many sterile gardens, **FAR TOO MUCH light pollution**, not great for wildlife and humans
- More **noise and light pollution** from an area that used to rest in the winter months.... we see less wild birds nesting in the area and less bats, badgers etc, the area doesn't get rest to recover
- Over my life time (I'm 51) I have noticed a profound decline in invertebrates, birds, bird song, dawn chorus, habitats, quality of habitats, increased in all pollution including **light pollution**.
- Some types of wildlife have left the area due to over development and **light pollution**.
- Work on the A27 has led to massive increase in **light pollution** - totally unnecessary. Have not seen bats or glow-worms since

Shade

- Plant trees for **shade** and shelter. So much wind because of no trees
- I would love to see more trees or some sort of **shade** put into the Big Park in Peacehaven as it is so hot and difficult to find shelter in the summer. the orchard is beautiful and there is a little woodland but no shade in the wide open space at all.



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Sussex Nature Recovery

A collective blueprint for targeted action

About respondents

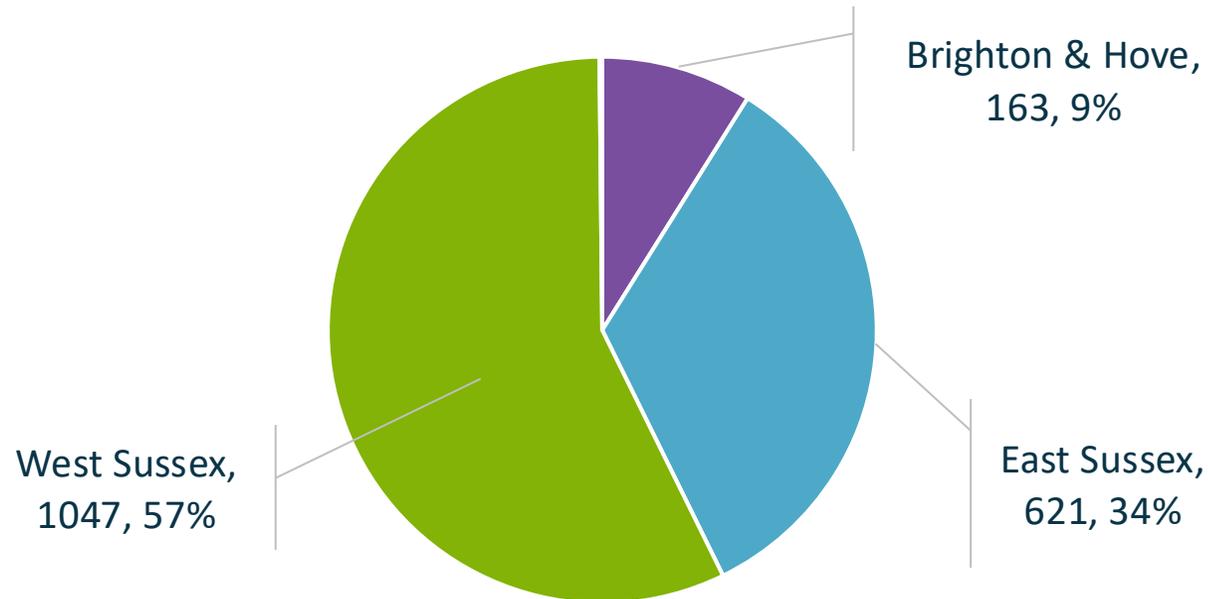
SussexNatureRecovery.org.uk



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%

