

# UK'S NATURE AND CLIMATE JOURNEY

**1760-1820**  
Industrial Revolution starts in Britain and spreads west.

**1896**  
A Swedish scientist links the burning of fossil fuels with a warming effect.

**1900s**  
Industrial growth continues with periods of accelerated warming.

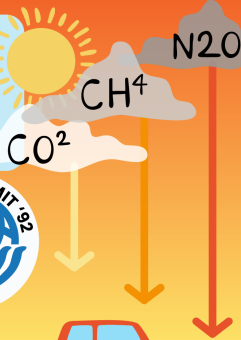
**1912**  
Early pioneer Charles Rothschild forms the precursor to The Wildlife Trusts to protect important UK wildlife sites.

**1949**  
Gained first legal protection for wildlife sites in the UK with the National Parks & Access to the Countryside Act.

**1963**  
The UK bans whaling.

**1988**  
The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is established and produce a report linking human activity and greenhouse gas emissions.

**1992**  
The Rio Earth Summit brings together 179 countries to look at the impact of human activity on the environment.



**1840-1880**  
Wetlands are drained to make way for housing and farming.

**1910**  
Insect extinctions hit a high in England.

**1920-1970**  
The UK becomes increasingly urbanised and farming intensifies.

**1981**  
The Wildlife & Countryside Act is passed and continues to protect wildlife today.

**1994**  
The United Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is created and acknowledges human-induced climate change.

**2015**  
At COP21, the Paris Agreement sets a universal and legally binding target to limit temperature rise to 1.5°C and no more than 2°C.

**2011**  
Otters return to every UK county after significant conservation effort.

**2009**  
At COP15 in Copenhagen, countries agree to limit temperature rise by 2°C but fail to set any legally binding targets.

**2008**  
The UK Climate Change Act commits the UK Government to reducing greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050.

**1990-2010**  
There is a 53% increase in the area of crops treated with pesticides.

**1997**  
At COP3, the Kyoto Protocol sets the first legally binding targets for developed countries to reduce emissions.

**1996-2015**  
Birds on the Red List for Conservation Concern increases from 36 species to 67.



**2019**  
UK is the first country to set a target in law to achieve net zero emissions by 2050.

**2021**  
The IPCC publishes an updated report that states "human influence has warmed the atmosphere, ocean and land".



**2021**  
COP26 in Glasgow promises action on climate change but progress is yet to be seen.

**2022**  
Two important international conferences for the future of our natural environment: COP27 in Egypt must address climate change and COP15 in Canada needs to agree new nature targets to halt the loss of wildlife by 2030.

**2030**  
Countries have rapidly cut emissions and nature is recovering across at least 30% of our land and seas, helping to limit warming by 1.5°C.

**2050**  
The UK reaches net zero greenhouse gas emissions.