

Broken promises, deregulation and declining nature

The UK environment 10 years after the Brexit vote



Introduction

In 2021 the Greener UK coalition of green groups, including The Wildlife Trusts, published its final “Report Card” on Brexit. After the 2016 referendum, the Government in Westminster had promised a “Green Brexit” that would boost nature and environmental protections. The conclusion of environmental groups was damning - the promise of a Green Brexit had been broken. The danger of regulations being slashed was starting to materialise. A different vision of Brexit was winning out; Brexit to make the UK a Singapore-on-Thames, offering the chance to slash regulation. Five years after the Brexit vote, UK environmental laws were either the same as before, or weaker.¹

Another five years have gone by, there is a new Government in Westminster. That direction of travel has continued. A push for deregulation, enabled by Brexit, and a demonisation of the environment - classifying protections as a “barrier to growth” and “bats and newts”, and snails, as standing in the way of new houses - have intensified the risks to the UK’s environmental laws.² But making nature a scapegoat for a lack of economic growth has not worked. It has not changed the economy’s fortunes and it is not popular with a nation of people who love wildlife and the countryside, who worry about their beaches and rivers being polluted, and who see farmers struggling.

The story of Brexit for the UK’s environment has been one of deregulation and a weakening of environmental laws, to deleterious social and economic effect. This did not have to be the case.

Summary

Ten years ago the UK voted to leave the European Union. At the time a group of environmental experts argued that the UK and EU would be better off developing environmental regulation together.³ In the decade since, the country’s wildlife has kept disappearing. Rivers, streams, and beaches are dirtier than ever. The countryside, and our food, are being polluted by plastics and harmful chemicals. Critically, many of the laws that protect the environment are now weaker than when the UK was in the EU.⁴ Since Brexit, the EU has upgraded or introduced 28 environmental laws that the UK has not mirrored.⁵ The UK risks being taken back to 1970 before we joined the EU, when we were branded the “dirty man of Europe” due to the state of our beaches.

¹ The Wildlife Trusts, 2021, *Government falls short of delivering promised ‘Green Brexit’*, <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/news/government-falls-short-delivering-promised-green-brexite>

² Bat Conservation Trust, 2025, *Once again bats are blamed for Britain’s planning woes - but the evidence tells a different story*, <https://www.bats.org.uk/news/2025/08/once-again-bats-are-blamed-for-britains-planning-woes-but-the-evidence-tells-a-different-story>

³ Institute for European Environmental Policy, 2016, *The potential policy and environmental consequences for the UK of a departure from the European Union*, https://ieep.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/IEEP_Brexit_2016.pdf

⁴ Institute for European Environmental Policy, 2025, *Divergence in UK/EU Environmental Policy: State of Play 2025*, https://ieep.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Divergence_UKEU_2025_Oct.pdf

⁵ Horton, H., Guardian, 2025, *UK falling behind EU on environmental rules amid post-Brexit rollback*, <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/aug/19/uk-falling-behind-eu-environmental-rules-post-brexit-rollback>

This is not what the advocates of Brexit promised, during and immediately after the referendum. Prime Minister Theresa May used a key speech in 2018 to promise that Brexit would not mean any lowering of the UK's environmental standards and that all EU laws would be incorporated into domestic law.⁶ We were told that leaving the EU would give the UK more freedom to set tougher environmental laws: to hold water companies to account, to protect wild areas from being bulldozed, to save the UK's dwindling fish stocks.

For a few years, this seemed viable. In the years after the referendum, new laws like the Environment Act were devised and passed, to set the framework for stronger environmental protections for the UK. This positive phase did not last long, even as laws were being debated in Parliament, drift was clear. The UK began to "diverge by default"⁷, falling behind while the EU upgraded environmental protections.⁸ In fact the EU's environmental protections have accelerated in recent years, with the Green Deal seeing a raft of new environmental laws, more than at any other time in recent history.

Things have deteriorated further since 2022. The UK Government's drift on environmental regulation became attempts to actively weaken protections. Some attacks, like the Retained EU Law Bill, were blunted thanks to public, civil society and political opposition. Whilst this opposition has meant that the worst-case deregulatory scenario has not come to pass, other attacks that have passed into law - like the Planning & Infrastructure Act - on top of years of drift mean that the UK now has weaker environmental laws than when it was an EU member.

Weakening has happened in a number of key areas.⁹ The UK Government has pursued an agenda of actively weakening laws that protect nature in the planning system in England. An overhaul of the farming system, which had the potential to help farmers and nature, has been beset with delays and difficulties. The UK is falling behind the EU, which has strengthened its laws protecting waterways. The UK chose to leave an EU system for protecting people and the environment against hazardous chemicals.

There's no real evidence that this deregulation actually helps growth. The green economy actually helps to drive a significant portion of economic growth. Instead, environmental laws have been made a scapegoat for a sluggish economy, but failing to back nature restoration has made people poorer, less healthy, and has deprived our economy of the ecosystem services nature can provide.

Most worryingly, the EU, like the UK, is now seeing a push for growth and a demonisation of environmental regulations as standing in the way of economic progress. This trend is leading to the "simplification" (i.e. weakening or cancelling) of some environmental policies (such as

⁶ UK Government, 2018, *Prime Minister's speech on the environment*, <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/prime-ministers-speech-on-the-environment-11-january-2017>

⁷ Institute for European Environmental Policy, 2022, *Divergence of environmental policy post Brexit: Initial reflections by IEEP UK*, https://ieep.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Divergence-of-environmental-policy-post-Brexit_IEEP-UK-2022.pdf

⁸ *Supra* note 4.

⁹ *Supra* note 4.

the failed Forest Monitoring Regulation and the embattled EU Deforestation Regulation).¹⁰ This approach copies that of recent UK Governments, far from being an environmental leader, the post Brexit UK has become a deregulatory pioneer the EU is now copying.

However, everything is not quite lost. Some aspects of the initial positive hopes for a Green Brexit have survived the years of drift and deregulation, and delivered promising results.. Sandeel fisheries is one small, isolated example (among declining standards of marine protection in general) where the UK took a stronger position to protect fish stocks, went beyond EU standards, and stood firm when challenged in court. The UK can improve environmental protections outside the EU - and even surpass European standards - when there is the political will

The state of the UK's natural environment

In the last ten years nature in the UK has continued to decline. We are off track to meet most environmental targets by 2030. The UK is already one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world, and one in six species is at risk of being lost altogether.¹¹ Despite claims that nature gets in the way of economic growth, its loss will have huge economic impacts - it could reduce UK GDP by up to 5% by 2050.¹²

Of course, there have been success stories, like the recovery or reintroduction of key species like beavers, eradicating rodents so seabirds can return to Northern Ireland's islands,¹³ the reintroduction of rosy saxifrage to Wales's mountains,¹⁴ or the recovery of the ladybird spider on Dorset's heathlands.¹⁵ Public access to nature can be improved too - take the completion of projects like England's coastal path. Investment can flow into new habitats from the public and private sectors, like Aviva's work with The Wildlife Trusts on restoring Atlantic oak rainforests. The Environment Act, Agriculture Act, and Fisheries Act in England in 2021 represented one of the most fruitful periods of environmental law-making for years.

But by and large the high hopes of a few years ago have been dashed and the overall picture is a country where nature is being damaged, destroyed, or polluted and the laws and policies that protect it are being weakened through a combination of negligence and design.

A growing gap between UK and EU environmental regulation: key areas

¹⁰ *Supra* note 4.

¹¹ The Wildlife Trusts, 2023, *Landmark report shows UK wildlife's devastating decline*, <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/news/landmark-report-shows-uk-wildlifes-devastating-decline>

¹² Edie, 2025, *Private sector action on nature can prevent UK GDP drop of 5%, say WWF and GFI*, <https://www.edie.net/private-sector-action-on-nature-can-prevent-uk-gdp-drop-of-5-say-wwf-and-gri/>

¹³ Ulster Wildlife, 2025, *Puffins make a comeback to Isle of Muck thanks to decades of conservation effort*, <https://www.ulsterwildlife.org/news/puffins-make-comeback-isle-muck-thanks-decades-conservation-effort>

¹⁴ National Trust, 2024, *Extinct plant reintroduce to the wild in Wales after 62 years*, <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/services/media/extinct-plant-reintroduced-to-the-wild-in-wales-after-62-years>

¹⁵ Back from the Brink, Ladybird Spider, <https://naturebftb.co.uk/projects/ladybird-spider/>

It was hoped that new laws, policies, and governance could plug the gap left by the UK's withdrawal. Some new laws were introduced, not least the Environment Act in England, along with new bodies such as the Office for Environmental Protection. However, the process of legislating was lengthy. Implementation of new laws, and action to meet new, legally binding, targets has been slow. The judgment of the Office for Environmental Protection is that England remains off track to meet most of those targets.

This section will not look at every single area of environmental policy (other, more detailed reports that do that), but here are some key examples.

Pesticides

This is one of the clearest areas of divergence. In Great Britain the Health and Safety Executive has changed the "Maximum Residue Levels" (the amount of trace chemicals allowed on food) for hundreds of chemicals. In the EU responsibility for managing these chemicals is shared and standards have been tightened, but in Great Britain it is now the sole responsibility of the Health and Safety Executive, which has been overwhelmed by the level of demand. British crops are being sprayed with pesticides banned in the EU.¹⁶

Farming

England has delivered some environmental progress in this area. It has largely replaced a system of direct payments to farmers with an Environmental Land Management (ELM) scheme where those payments are in return for environmental measures. This marks a strengthening of environmental ambition compared to the EU. However, the scheme's introduction has been mismanaged and plagued by scarcity, as the Treasury has been reluctant to release funds on the scale needed to realise ELM's full potential for nature and the rural economy.¹⁷ Farmers have faced delays to payments and sudden and unexpected closures to new applications. This has created huge levels of uncertainty. The lack of adequate advice and support for farmers in the transition has also hindered action. There was also the promise of better and more transparent supply chains, envisaged in the Agriculture Act 2020, which has not been delivered on sufficiently to change the status quo. Farmers remain badly squeezed by markets inhibiting their opportunities for nature friendly farming.¹⁸

Water

The UK's rivers, lakes, and streams have become a focus of national attention. 84% of England's water bodies fail one or more ecological tests, and 100% of them fail to meet chemical standards. Despite increasingly different laws, EU water bodies are not much better - 60% of them fail to meet good ecological status.¹⁹

¹⁶ Greenpeace, 2026, *British crops still sprayed with pesticides banned by EU due to cancer, fertility and fetal health warnings*, <https://www.greenpeace.org.uk/news/british-crops-still-sprayed-with-pesticides-banned-by-eu-due-to-cancer-fertility-and-fetal-health-warnings/>

¹⁷ The Wildlife Trusts, 2024, *Farming Transition all at sea - but where's the Captain?*, <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/blog/barnaby-coupe/farming-transition-all-sea-where-s-captain>

¹⁸ *Supra* note 4.

¹⁹ Green Alliance, 2025, *Progress since Brexit on the water environment*, <https://green-alliance.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Progress-since-Brexit-on-the-water-environment.pdf>

But there are growing differences in the laws and targets that apply to UK water bodies, which could affect future progress. Governments in England and Wales are embarking upon a process of water reform which, despite encouraging words of ‘new ambitious targets’ in the UK Government’s water White Paper, could risk seeing existing Water Framework Directive targets quietly sidelined or even removed.

The UK’s main divergence from the EU to date on water concerns the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive. The EU introduced a new Directive in 2024, with stricter requirements for collecting and treating waste water, including requirements to monitor for a new range of chemicals and a Producer Responsibility scheme meaning companies causing pollution have to cover the costs of cleanup.²⁰ UK countries still rely on the 1990 version of the Directive with weaker requirements.²¹ The EU is also moving towards a broad ban on PFAS - a long-lived and harmful chemical that pollutes water. The UK is not introducing such a widespread ban.

Chemicals

This is one of the areas where the UK has fallen furthest behind the EU.²² Great Britain has left REACH, the EU system for registering and restricting chemicals, including the most hazardous ones. Northern Ireland remains part of the EU system. The Health and Safety Executive, the body that took on responsibility in Great Britain, has lost access to EU databases and has struggled with the level of demand placed on it.²³

In the five years that followed UK REACH coming into effect in January 2021, the EU added 42 substances to its candidate list of Substances of Very High Concern, whilst the UK did not add any. Additions to the UK list made in June 2026, the first since Brexit, still leave us lagging behind.²⁴ Great Britain’s environment and people are potentially exposed to dozens of harmful chemicals that European citizens are protected from. New regulations, laid in June 2026, suggest that the UK could choose to rely on chemical standards from countries like Brazil, India, and China, which are much weaker. These regulations are now being legally challenged by environmental groups.²⁵

Marine

²⁰ *Supra* note 4.

²¹ *Supra* note 4.

²² Burges Salmon, 2026, *Ten years on from the Brexit vote: Assessing the impact on UK environmental law for the American Bar Association Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources*, <https://www.burges-salmon.com/articles/102mrus/ten-years-on-from-the-brexit-vote-assessing-the-impact-on-uk-environmental-law-f/>

²³ Green Alliance, 2025, *What’s happened to British chemicals regulation since Brexit?*, <https://green-alliance.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Whats-happened-to-British-chemicals-regulation-since-Brexit.pdf>

²⁴ *Ibid.*

²⁵ Neill, P., Guardian, 2026, *‘Fast-track’ regulation could expose Britons to harmful chemicals, say campaigners*, <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2026/jun/13/fast-track-regulation-could-expose-britons-to-harmful-chemicals-say-campaigners>

The UK has fallen behind in protecting the marine environment. However, one isolated success demonstrates that even outside the EU the UK can toughen up its environmental laws. All that is needed is the political will to make it happen. In 2024 England chose to close all its waters in the North Sea to EU vessels fishing for sandeels, and Scotland closed all its waters.²⁶ This was done to protect UK sandeel fish stocks, and in turn the seabird populations that rely on them. The EU has 97% of the UK sandeel fishing quota, so closing these waters to EU vessels can make a huge difference to sandeel stocks. Even when the EU challenged this decision in court, the UK and Scottish governments held firm and won.

However, there are still significant issues with marine and fisheries management where the UK is falling behind the EU. England has banned damaging bottom trawling in some Marine Protected Areas, but plans to extend this measure to 41 more offshore sites have been delayed. Currently only 15% of English MPAs have features that are recovered or recovering, with 58% of features degraded or degrading (and a further 27% unknown due to lack of data) which highlights that the current management of MPAs is ineffective.²⁷ In addition, several of the offshore wind developments around the UK have been given consent to build within MPAs further degrading these sites.

Nature laws

The laws protecting species and habitats deserve particular attention. They are a cornerstone of the UK's environmental regulations, and they have provided decades of protection for the most vulnerable wild places, cherished by people. In many cases these species or places, once lost, can never be fully replaced. But these laws have also proven a particular target for some sections of the media and for politicians of different parties. There are claims - entirely incorrect - that these laws are getting in the way of economic growth and development.

These claims have frequently been directed at the Habitats Regulations. These Regulations are strong protections that have slowed nature's decline for the protected areas and the species they cover,²⁸ providing the UK's most effective bulwark against ecosystem collapse and the disastrous economic consequences that would come from it.²⁹ Since Brexit these Regulations have wrongly been targeted as a barrier to growth. Research by The Wildlife Trusts already shows that - despite the headlines and claims by the Chancellor and others - bats and newts, for example, were a factor in just 3.3% of planning appeals.

The Planning and Infrastructure Act has been one of the most prominent examples of the UK Government deliberately choosing to weaken environmental protections since Brexit. It went

²⁶ Green Alliance, 2026, *UK fisheries policy five years after Brexit*, <https://green-alliance.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/UK-fisheries-policy-five-years-after-Brexit.pdf>

²⁷ Wildlife Trusts research 2025 on Marine Protected Areas *Reality check for marine protection* <https://mymba.mba.ac.uk/resource/reality-check-for-marine-protection.html#:~:text=Dani%20Clifford%20reports%20on%20The.many%20MPAs%20should%20be%20celebrated.>

²⁸ Sanderson et al, 2016, *Assessing the Performance of EU Nature Legislation in Protecting Target Bird Species in an Era of Climate Change*, <https://conbio.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/conl.12196>

²⁹ Royal United Services Institute, 2026, *We Need to Talk About Ecosystem Collapse*, <https://www.rusi.org/explore-our-research/publications/commentary/we-need-talk-about-ecosystem-collapse>

ahead with this legislation despite warnings from the Office for Environmental Protection that it would represent a regression (a weakening) of environmental laws.³⁰ The Act introduced a Nature Restoration Levy, meaning that developers can bypass environmental protections for the most rare and vulnerable nature sites and species by paying for compensation elsewhere.³¹ The Habitats Regulations only affect a small handful of planning applications, but where they do they provide incredibly important protection that prevents the destruction of the country's rarest wildlife and habitats.

The Government seems determined to weaken these protections even further. Although watered down after environmental outcry, the Nuclear Regulation Bill looks set to weaken some aspects of the Habitats Regulations around Nuclear sites and the Regulating for Growth Bill will load environmental regulators with inappropriate growth duties, diluting their core environmental function.³²

This is a far cry from the high hopes of 2021, when the Environment Act for England included a new obligation on all development to more than replace any affected habitats. The new Biodiversity Gain requirement surpasses anything in the EU, putting the UK ahead in terms of nature and planning laws.³³ But since the scheme's introduction in 2024 the UK Government has already significantly weakened it, by introducing new exemptions for smaller sites. With a further exemption for targeted residential brownfield sites under consideration, threatening to raise the share of exempt applications to as many as 64%. In June 2026 the Chief Executive of the Office for Environmental Protection advised the UK Government that its changes to Biodiversity Gain rules put its housebuilding targets at odds with its targets on reversing nature's decline by 2030.³⁴

Research shows that these new and proposed exemptions are increasing nature-poverty in some of the most deprived parts of England.³⁵ People's lack of access to nature is being made even worse, especially for 7.4 million people who live in areas with no nature. Access to nature improves people's mental and physical health, resulting in huge savings to the NHS.³⁶ Depriving people of nature harms their health. The worst areas for access to nature are parts of London (like Croydon) and central Birmingham, Manchester, and Liverpool. These areas have a higher concentration of brownfield sites. Lower access to nature is already concentrated in the most economically deprived areas. The UK Government's decisions on Biodiversity Gain exemptions will reinforce people's lack of access to nature in some of the most deprived parts of the country.

³⁰ *Supra* note 4.

³¹ Wildlife and Countryside Link, 2025, *Planning and Infrastructure Bill: the final act, final lessons - and what comes next*, <https://www.wcl.org.uk/planning-and-infrastructure-bill-the-final-act.asp>

³² The Wildlife Trusts, 2026, *Government grants nature a partial reprieve - but risks to wildlife remain: UK Government publish their response to the Nuclear Regulatory Review*, <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/news/government-grants-nature-partial-reprieve-risks-wildlife-remain>

³³ *Supra* note 4.

³⁴ Office for Environmental Protection, 2026, *BNG rules need to take effect before further changes are made, says the OEP*, <https://www.theoep.org.uk/report/bng-rules-need-take-effect-further-changes-are-made-says-oep>

³⁵ Wildlife and Countryside Link, 2026, *Green Gap: How BNG exemptions deepen nature poverty across England's most deprived communities*, https://www.wcl.org.uk/docs/green_gap_report.pdf

³⁶ The Wildlife Trusts, *Nature for well-being*, <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/about-us/what-we-do/helping-everyone-take-action-nature/nature-for-wellbeing>

Deregulation has not benefitted people nor driven economic growth

Since Brexit, the EU has upheld its existing environmental standards, and introduced more new laws to protect nature. The UK has gone down a different, deregulatory path, which has not led to economic growth. Analysis suggests that the full effect of Brexit has cost the UK's economy anywhere from 2% to 8% of GDP. Strikingly, the green economy has been one of the few parts of the UK economy that has grown strongly.³⁷ Nature underpins the economy and can help it grow - a potential successive Governments have ignored.

Defra cuts to environmental regulation in the 2010s provide an illustrative example of how environmental deregulation can actively lead to economic harm. Successive Defra Secretaries of State pursued an explicitly deregulatory agenda, boasting of cutting red tape by reducing farm inspections and trimming down regulators overseen by Defra.³⁸

Cuts included an £80 million reduction in the budget the Environment Agency relied on for sewage monitoring.³⁹ The pollution this deregulation has allowed has shaken the foundations of the water sector through the ongoing sewage scandal, putting billions of the public's money at risk to clean up the mess or bail out those companies. Deregulation stored huge economic harm further down the line.

Recent farming policy provides another example of the economic harm caused by scepticism about nature's economic role. The Treasury was sceptical from the start of Brexit that the new Environmental Land Management system of farming support would deliver for growth and sought to limit the scale of ELM schemes and to insist on short term gains being demonstrated for any money spent. This has meant that the transition from EU farming support to ELM has been stop-start, non-strategic and dogged by scarcity issues, creating significant uncertainty for farmers and chilling growth.⁴⁰ This has affected farm businesses and the rural economy. Restoring nature, introducing new farming methods, reducing fertiliser use - these are steps that can help farming withstand extreme weather and events that result in a volatile market. But the Treasury has stood in the way of these measures in the name of defending growth - by doing so they have actually damaged farm businesses. Every spending review has seen a row between Defra and the Treasury about ELM budgets and, whilst the scheme is now making progress, coverage across farmed landscapes is still patchy. Research commissioned by The Wildlife Trusts, National Trust and RSPB has consistently delivered a clear set of budgetary requirements for a successful farming transition, which the Treasury has largely

³⁷ CBI, 2026, *Net Gains: The UK's Net Zero Economy in 2050*, <https://www.cbi.org.uk/articles/net-gains-the-uks-net-zero-economy-in-2025/>

³⁸ Crerar, P., and Horton, H., Guardian, 2022, *Liz Truss 'has sewage on her hands' over Environment Agency cuts*, <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/elizabeth-truss-speech-at-national-farmers-union-conference>

³⁹ Sky News, 2022, *Liz Truss Environment Agency budget cuts resulting in 'doubled sewage discharge', Labour claims*, <https://news.sky.com/story/liz-truss-environment-agency-budget-cuts-resulted-in-doubled-sewage-discharge-labour-claims-12679570>

⁴⁰ *Supra* note 17 and The Wildlife Trusts, 2025, *Defra promise reformed support for farmers will turbocharge nature's recovery, but will it all come too late?*, <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/blog/barnaby-coupe/defra-promise-reformed-support-farmers-will-turbocharge-natures-recovery-will-it>

ignored.⁴¹ Successive Governments have also failed to bring forward regulations to protect farming soils, to replace regulations lost through Brexit.

Healthy soils, the right amount of water (not flooding, not drought), pollinators - all these are fundamental to farming and food security and a thriving rural economy, and are secured by strong environmental regulation and fully implemented farming schemes.⁴² A country without a stable food system cannot have a healthy economy, and its national security will be at risk.⁴³

Since Brexit the UK has experimented with environmental deregulation and found it to be a lose-lose: it has weakened protection for the environment and it hasn't boosted the economy.

Conclusion

The environmental deregulation pursued over recent years, enabled by Brexit, has failed. It hasn't helped grow the economy. The UK has drifted ever further from the EU's environmental laws and policies. In a small number of cases, with far-reaching consequences for nature, the UK Government has deliberately weakened those laws. This has often been under the guise of removing barriers to growth. But nature is simply the scapegoat when politicians want to point the finger elsewhere. A thriving natural environment helps our economy.

There is still time to change course. When governments want to, they can move at pace to introduce new laws and protections. This can still be done to make a difference ahead of 2030, when the UK has key targets it must meet for halting and reversing the loss of nature. The UK has shown that in some areas it can keep pace with the EU. In some areas it has even overtaken it. When the UK and EU compete on environmental protections, they outdo each other, resulting in a race to the top.⁴⁴ This only serves to benefit their citizens, nature, and economies. The promise of a Green Brexit has not been delivered. That does not mean it cannot be delivered. It is time to turn the page on years of failed post Brexit deregulation.

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Research commissioned by *The Wildlife Trusts* and conducted by *Matt Williams*

⁴¹ The Wildlife Trusts, RSPB, National Trust, *For farming, nature and climate: Investing in the UK's natural infrastructure to achieve Net Zero and nature's recovery on land*,

<https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/sites/default/files/2024-07/Scale%20of%20Need%20Report%20July%202024%20FINAL.pdf>

⁴² Soil Association, 2021, *Saving Our Soils*, <https://www.soilassociation.org/media/ltgp0gy1/saving-our-soils-report.pdf> and The Wildlife Trusts, *Bees and Pollinators*, <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/about-us/what-we-do/bringing-wildlife-back/on-land/saving-species/savingbees>

⁴³ HM Government, 2026, *Global biodiversity loss, ecosystem collapse, and national security*, https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/696e0eae719d837d69afc7de/National_security_assessment_-_global_biodiversity_loss_ecosystem_collapse_and_national_security.pdf

⁴⁴ *Supra* note 4.