

An integrated approach to addressing the climate and nature crises



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**Herts &
Middlesex**
Wildlife Trust

Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust



A charity

- Protecting habitats and the wildlife they support – 44 nature reserves and wider countryside
- Providing places where people can experience, enjoy and learn more about wildlife
- 22,000 members

Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*



Extinct in Hertfordshire

Adder *Vipera berus*



Extinct in Hertfordshire

White-clawed crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes*

Extinct in Hertfordshire

Hertfordshire State of Nature 2020



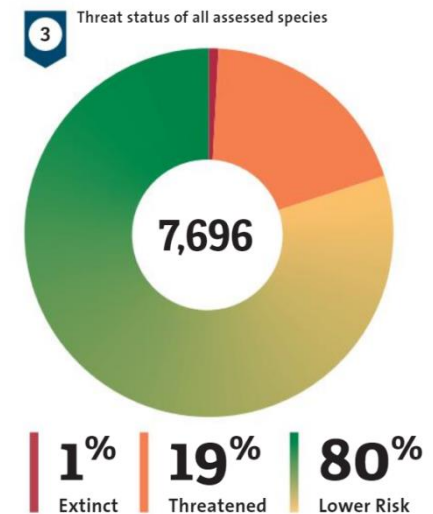
Hertfordshire
Natural History
Society



Herts &
Middlesex
Wildlife Trust



The *Hertfordshire's State of Nature Report* assessed over 10,000 different species and how their status changed between 1970 and 2020.



Extinctions and threatened species in Hertfordshire

In the last 50 years 76 species
became extinct

1446 species are now of conservation
concern

We have a nature crisis

Hertfordshire Climate Emergency Declaration

SUSTAINABLE HERTFORDSHIRE - OUR STRATEGY

SUMMARY INFORMATION










In developing our strategy Hertfordshire County Council have taken notice of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.



This strategy especially focuses on the environmental goals.



Our strategy has two ambitions

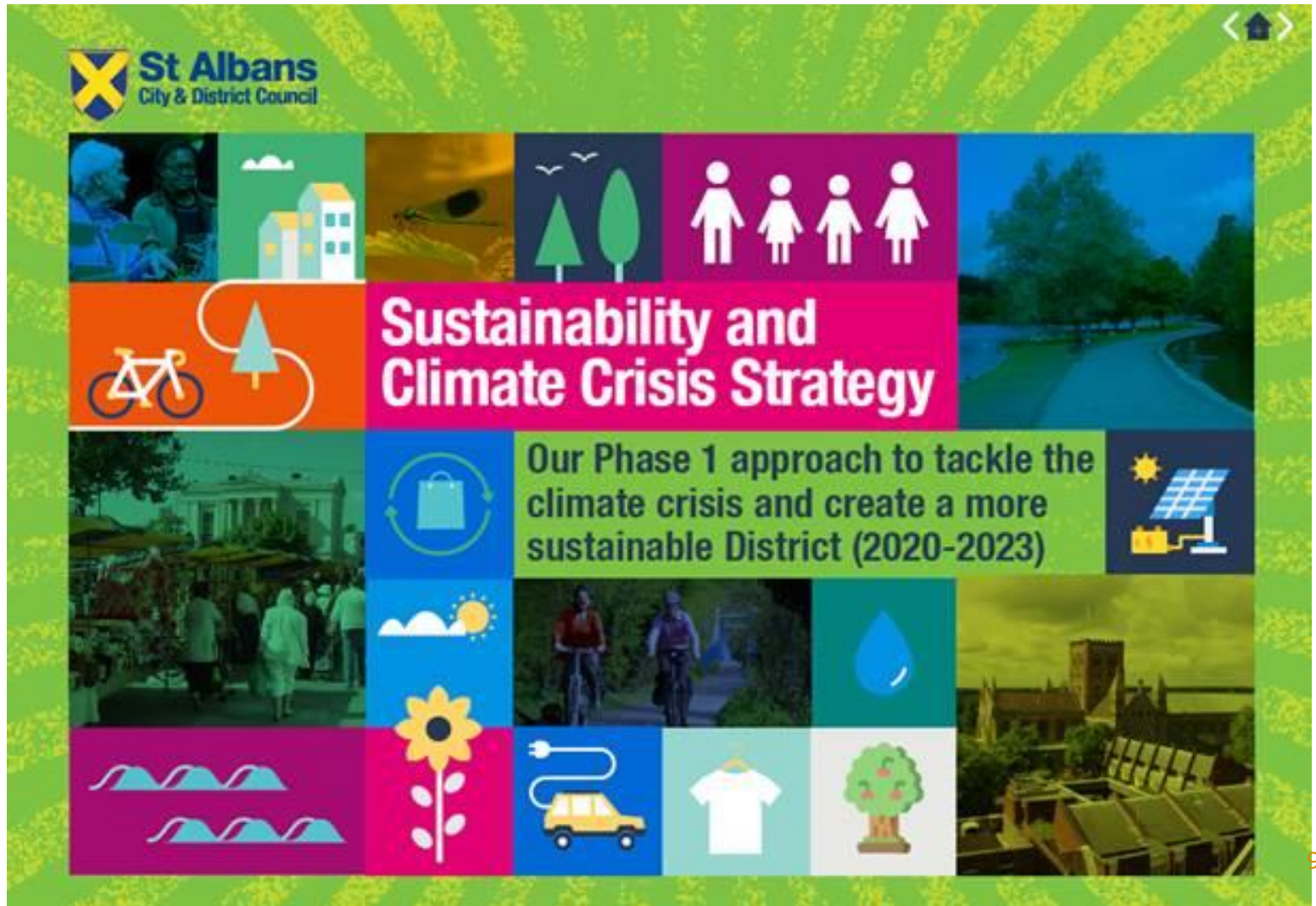
A leader in our own operations	Enabling & inspiring a sustainable county
<p>1. Zero carbon, ready for future climates</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>A carbon neutral organisation by 2030</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>All operations & services, ready for future climates</p> </div> </div>	<p>1. Zero carbon, ready for future climates</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>A net zero greenhouse gas County before 2050</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Ready for future climates</p> </div> </div>
<p>2. An environmental leader</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Improve nature on our land by 20% by 2030</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Reduce what we throw away. Send nothing to landfill by 2030</p> </div> </div>	<p>2. An environmental leader</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Improve wildlife on land and in water by 20% by 2050</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Clean air for all by 2030</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Increase resource efficiency threefold in the County by 2050</p> </div> </div>

We will deliver our ambitions in seven main ways:

1. Strong implementation and governance
2. Applying our objectives to key HCC strategies
3. Partnerships
4. Representation to central Government
5. Finance
6. Purchasing
7. Tracking and reporting progress.



Declared a climate emergency in 2019



Grasslands

Of the species associated with grassland/heathland and with sufficient data in Hertfordshire to be analysed,

14%

34

have gone extinct
since 1970

48%

113

have noticeably
declined

Woodlands

Despite the increases in woodland cover over the time period analysed, of the species associated with woodland and with sufficient data in Hertfordshire to be analysed,

14%

26

have gone extinct
since 1970

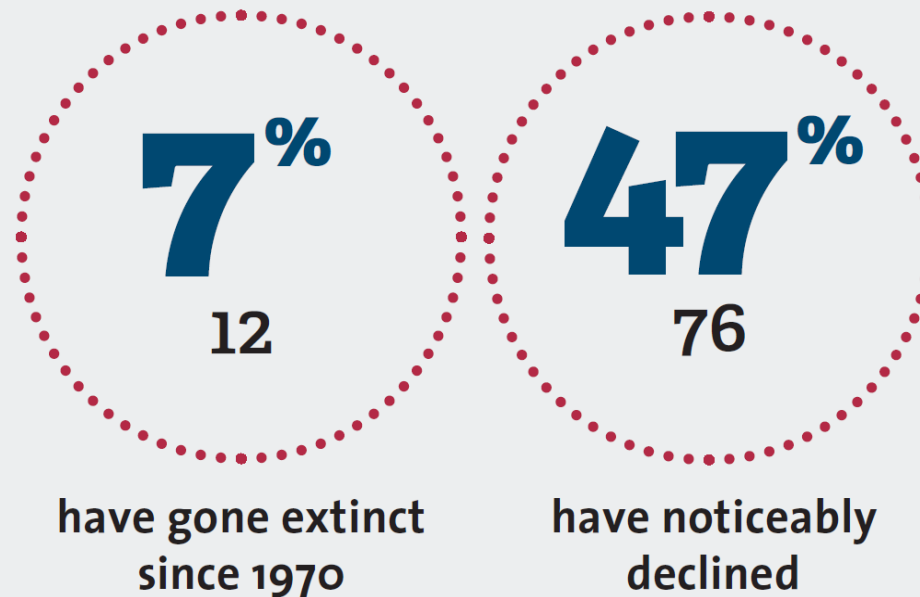
35%

65

have noticeably
declined

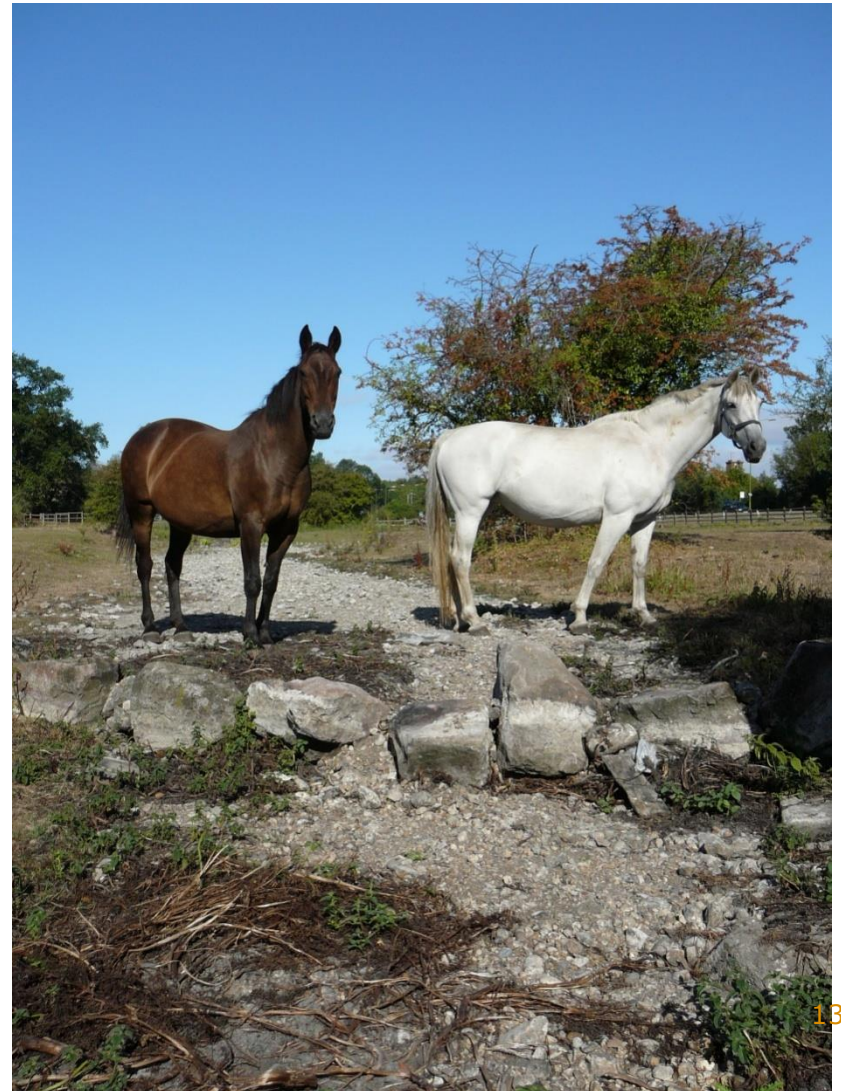
Wetlands

Of those species associated with wetland and with sufficient data in Hertfordshire to be analysed,



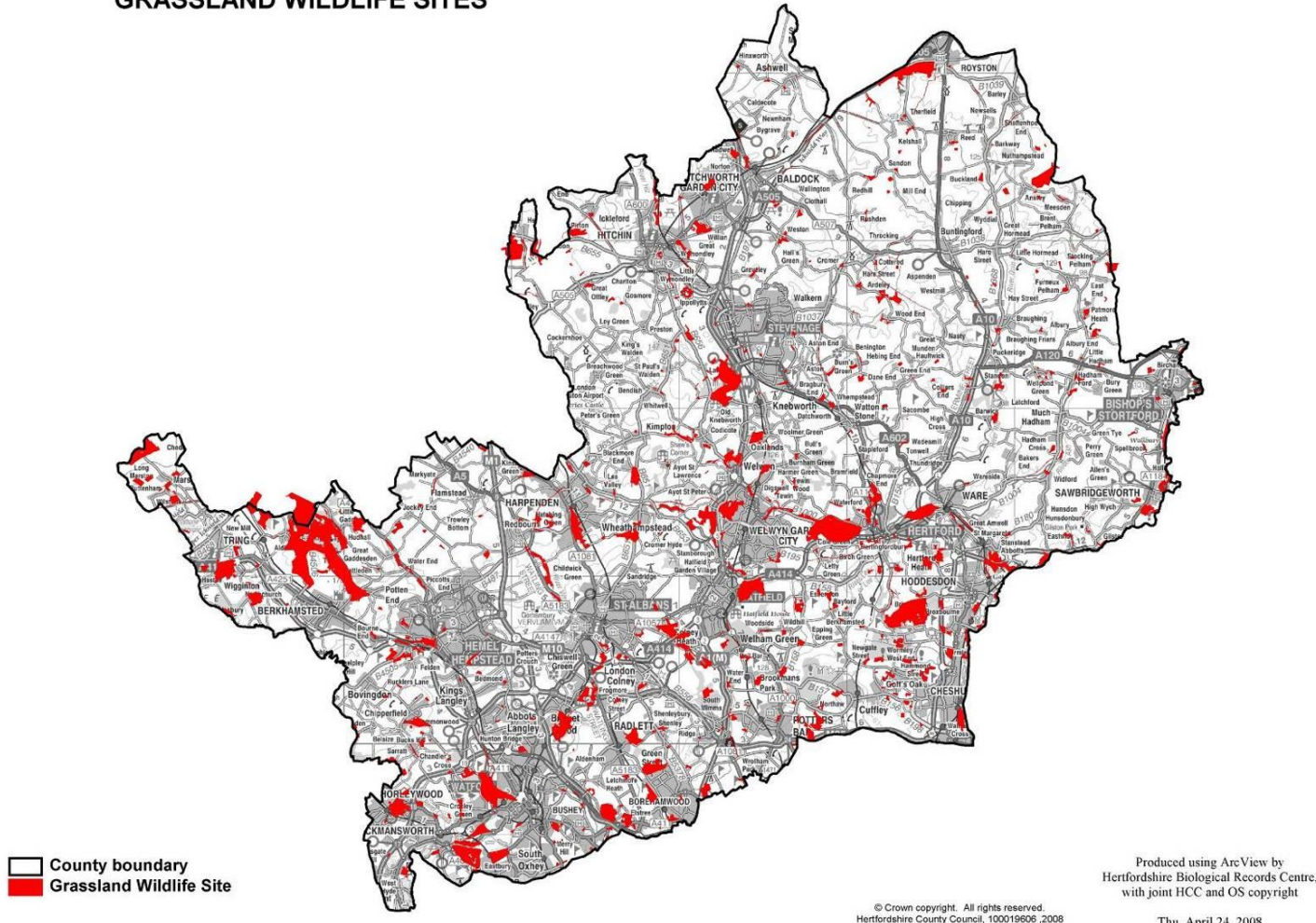
Hertfordshire – a water stressed county

Climate change and thirst



Death by a thousand cuts...

GRASSLAND WILDLIFE SITES



We need a joined-up solution to a joined-up problem

“The science is now clear that biodiversity loss and climate change are inextricably linked and to tackle one, we need to tackle the other.”

Ref. "Global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. E. S. Brondizio, J. Settele, S. Diaz, and H. T. Ngo (editors).," IPBES Secretariat, Bonn, Germany, 2019.

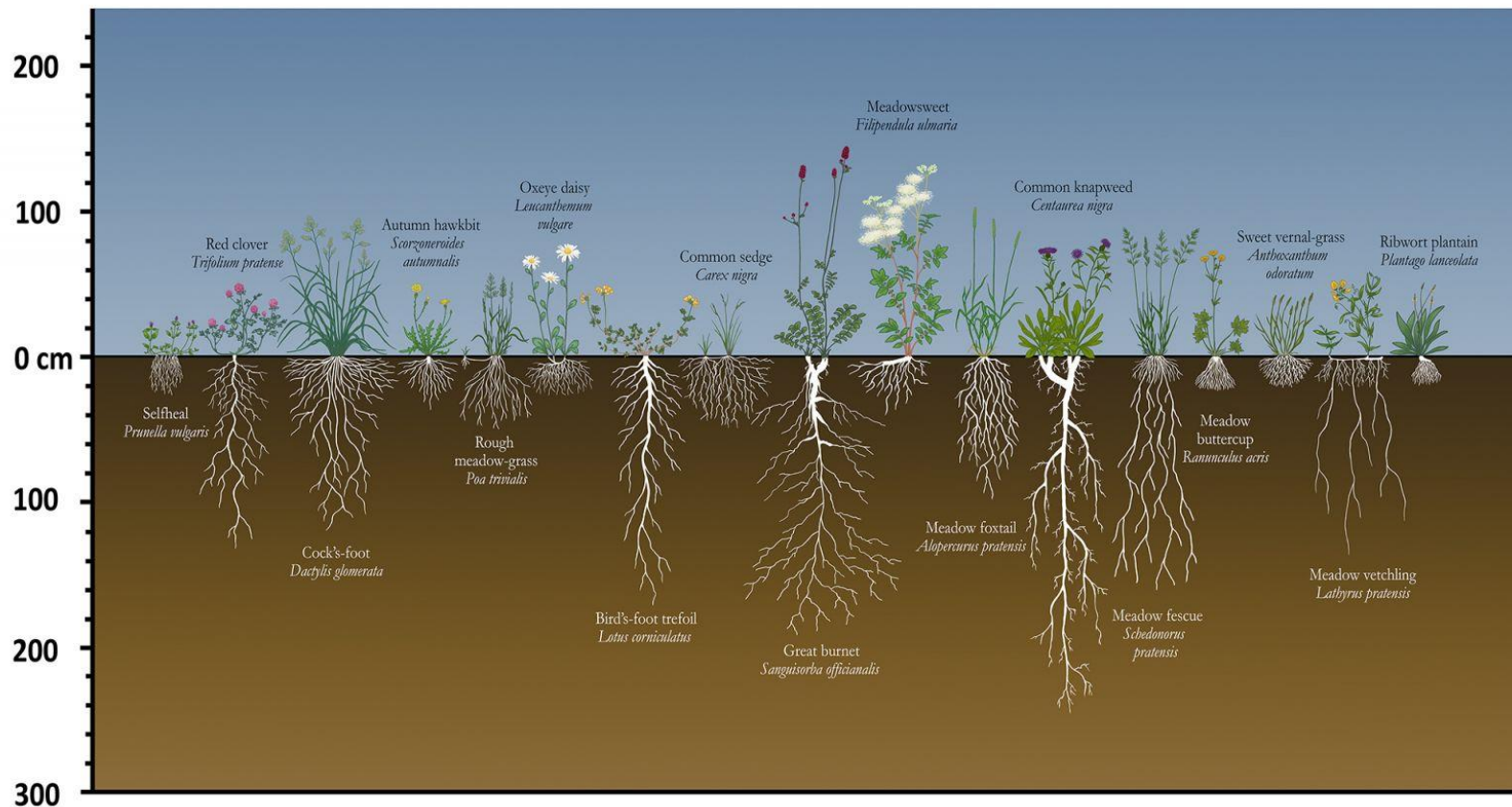
“Carbon capture and storage is the only hope for mankind”
Sir David King, former chief scientist to the UK government



We need to start from the ground up and rewild our soils

Rewild our soils, capture carbon

From Shoots to Roots: revealing the above and below ground structure of meadow plants



HMWT's Call to Action



More, bigger, better and connected wild places.

Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust is calling for at least 30% of our land and water to be connected and protected for nature's recovery by 2030.

In Hertfordshire this means providing 20,000ha more for nature.

Putting Nature Back 2030 Ponds by 2030

Hilfield Park Reservoir



Putting Nature Back

amenity spaces for nature too



Putting Nature Back

Water Voles back on all Hertfordshire Rivers by 2030

WATER VOLES ON THE RIVER VER



Herts & Middlesex
Wildlife Trust

Water voles were once a common sight for passers-by around waterways across the country. Sadly, water vole populations have fallen by 95% in the last 60 years. This drastic decline has come about through habitat loss, water pollution and predation by American mink.

Bringing voles back to the Ver

Water voles became extinct here in 1987 due to predation by American mink. Since then the mink have been removed and the wetland habitats have been improved. In 2021 water voles were reintroduced by Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust, working in partnership with the Ver Valley Society and local landowners, funded by the Debs Foundation and Linder Foundation.

Stop, look and listen

Water voles spend much of their time under the cover of plants so they can be tricky to see. If you are quiet and patient you may spot one nibbling plants at the water's edge. If they see you first, you'll probably hear a 'plop' as they jump into the water! Look carefully along the river banks and you may be able to spot signs of the vole's presence such as droppings or nibbled leaves.



WATER VOLE FACTFILE

- Size:** About the same size as a small guinea pig
- Description:** Small mammal with dark brown fur, small eyes, hidden ears, furry tail
- Weight:** 150-300 grams – same as 1-2 apples
- Food:** Leaves, roots and stems of plants
- Habitat:** Ponds, rivers, lakes and ditches
- Home:** Burrow in bank, excavated with their teeth!



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HOW

VOLU

If you'd like to help with the water vole project, please get in touch. Our experts can teach you how to identify water voles and their signs in the field.

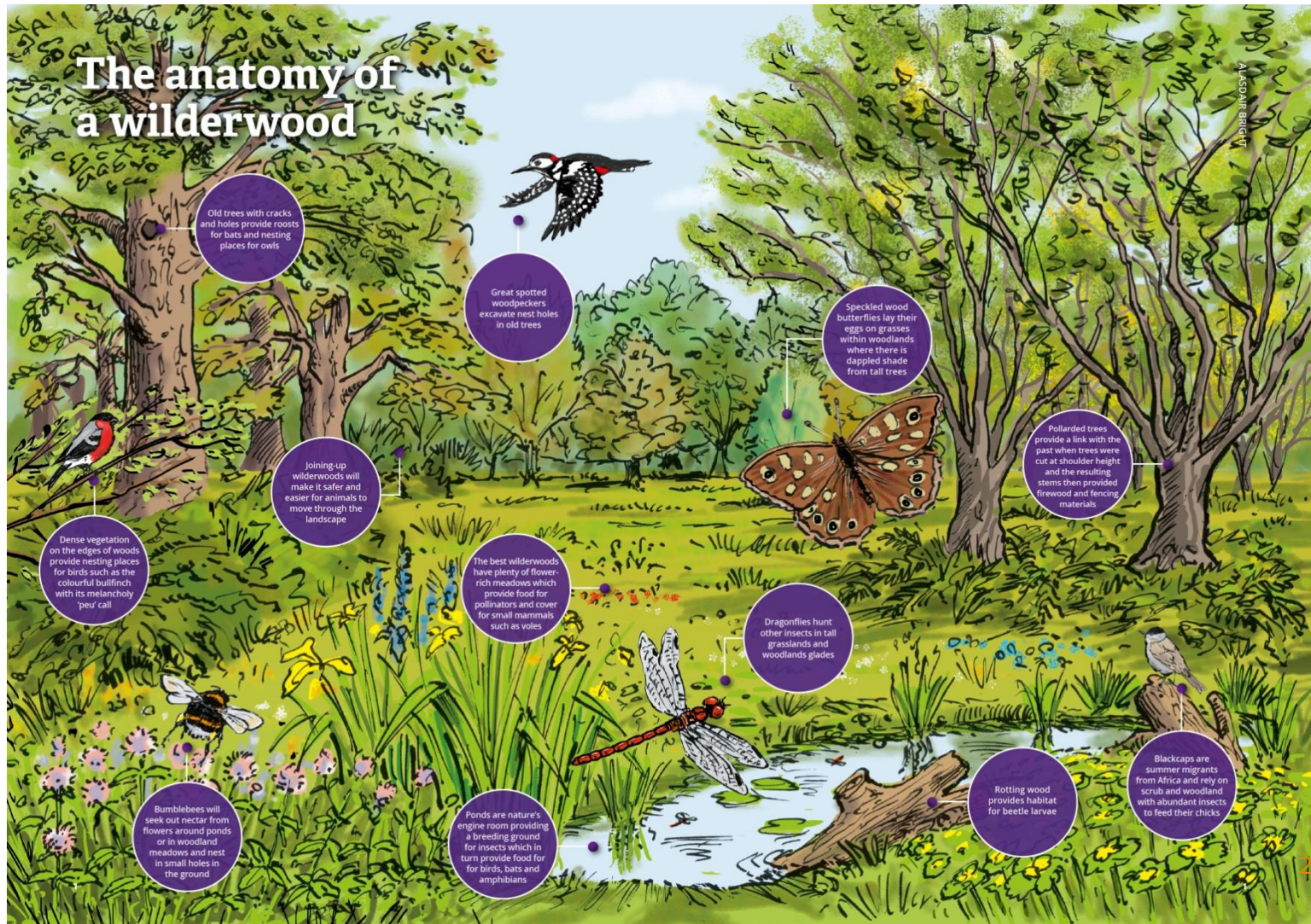
This project is funded by the Hertfordshire Council.



hertswildlifetrust.org.uk/watervoiles

HMWT's Wilderwoods

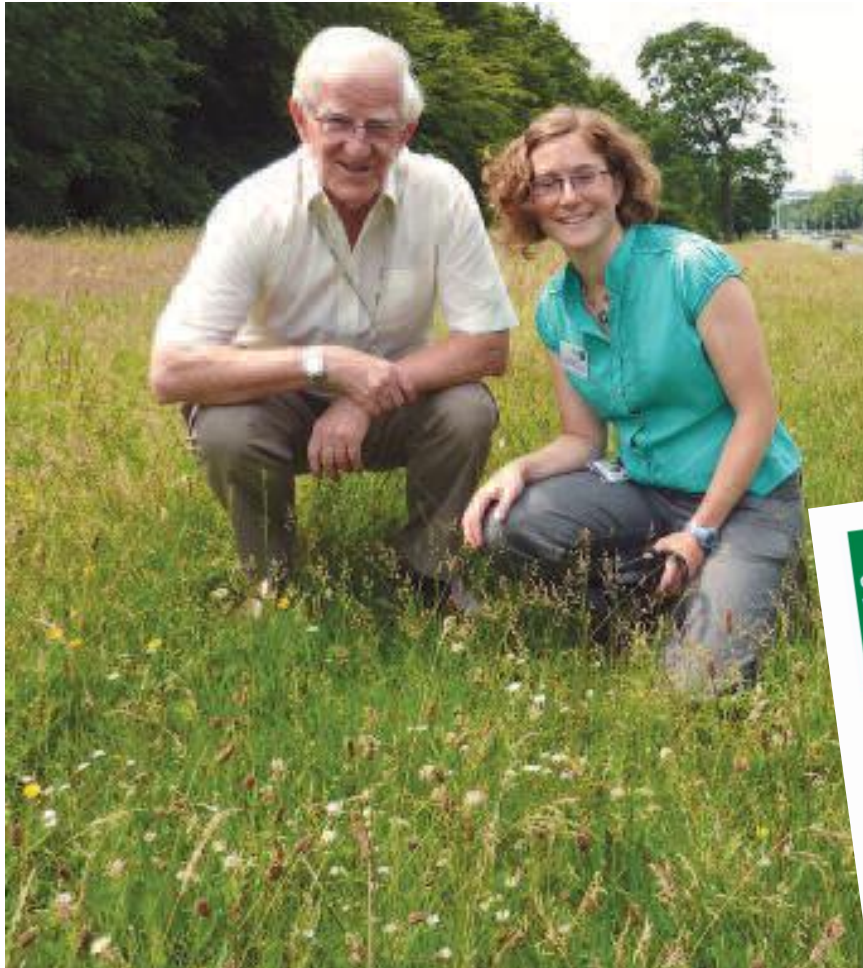
capturing carbon through habitat diversity



Wild Stevenage



Stevenage
BOROUGH COUNCIL



Wilder Dacorum



Taking swift action

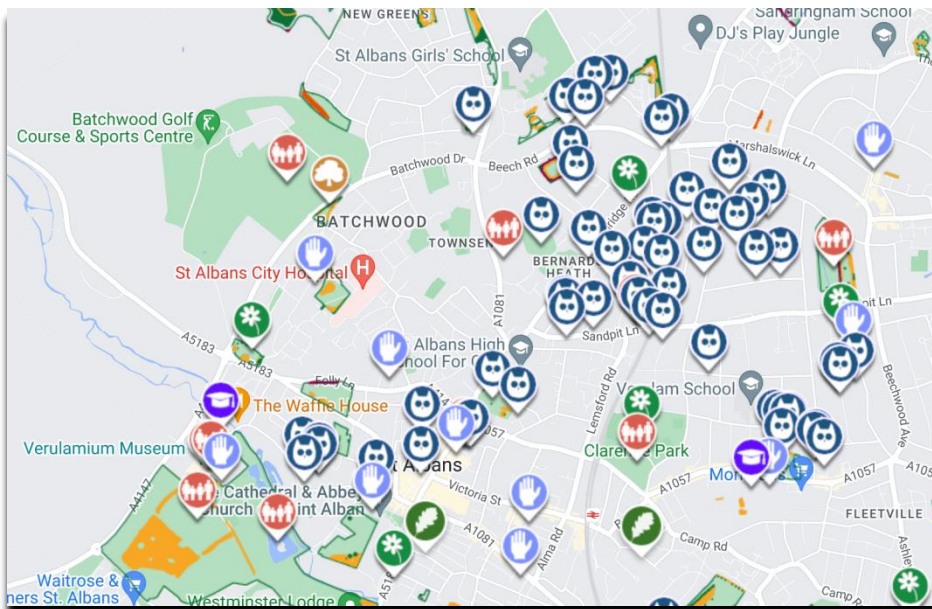


We can all help

If you have a garden, do five things



Aims to increase biodiversity across the District of St Albans by enabling and facilitating individual action



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OTCtC2Kpwds>

“If we take care of nature, nature will take care of us”
David Attenborough

Any questions?

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www.hertswildlifetrust.org.uk