

Warwickshire
Wildlife Trust

Quick wins for nature & for you

February 2025

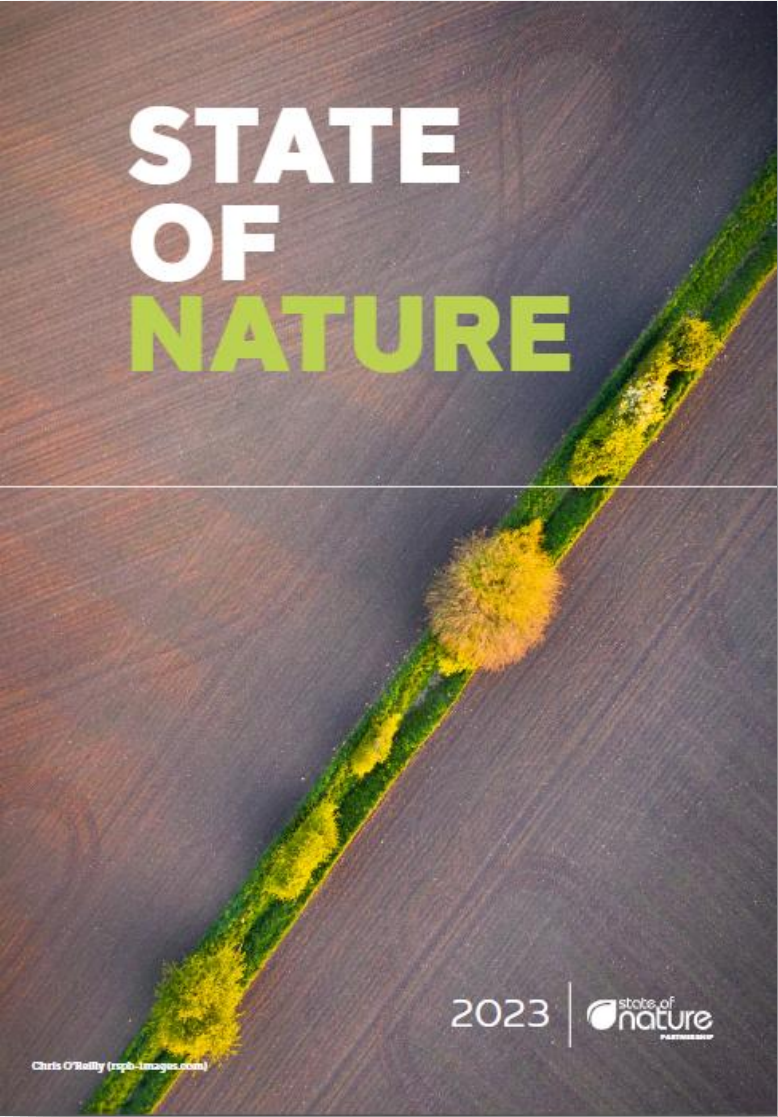


warwickshirewildlifetrust.org.uk

The ecological emergency



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Decline in abundance
(the number of individuals)



Distribution
(the proportion of sites occupied)

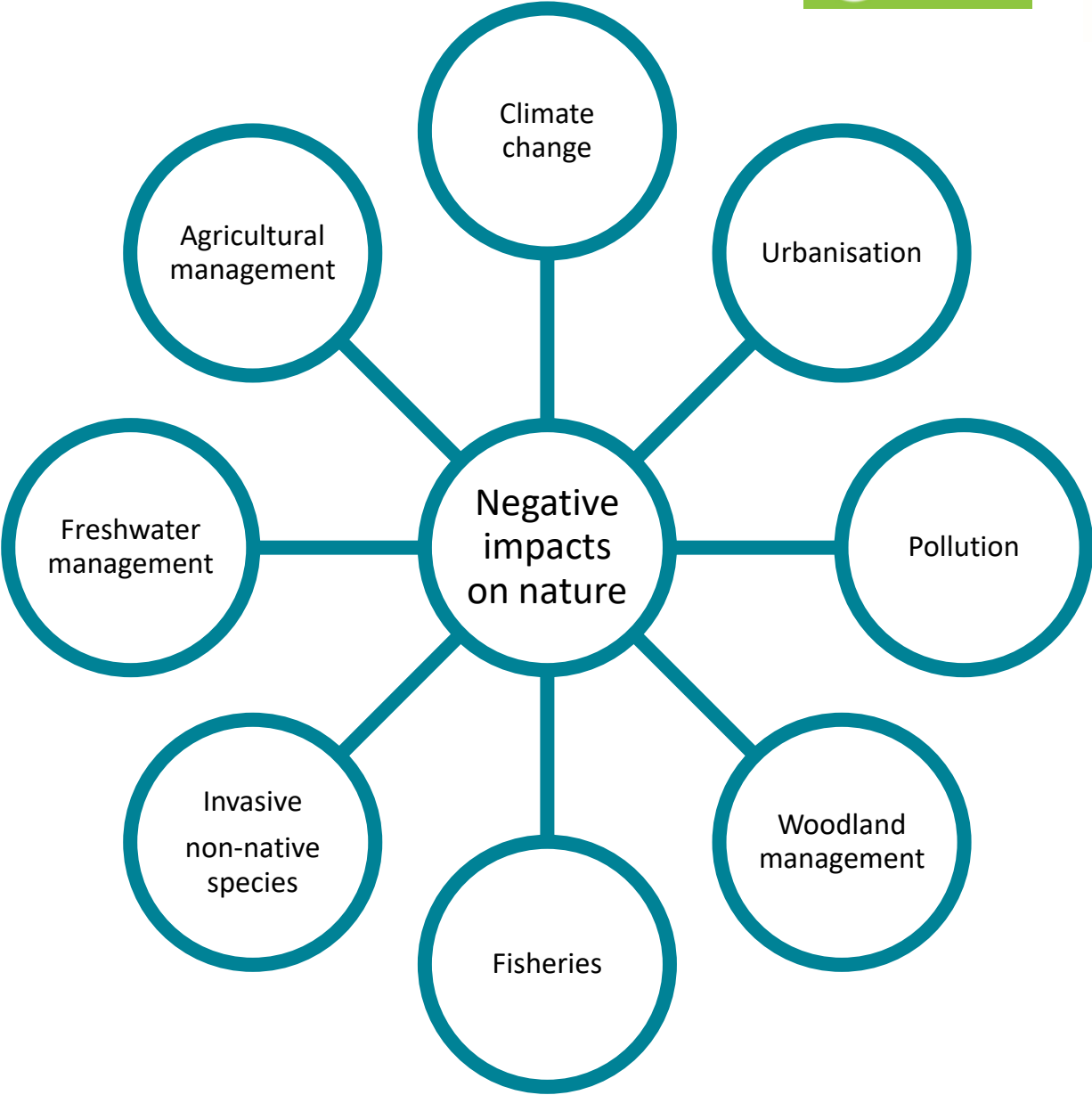


At risk of extinction

The complex picture of nature's decline



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One way of assessing how damaged nature is across the world is the
Biodiversity Intactness Index

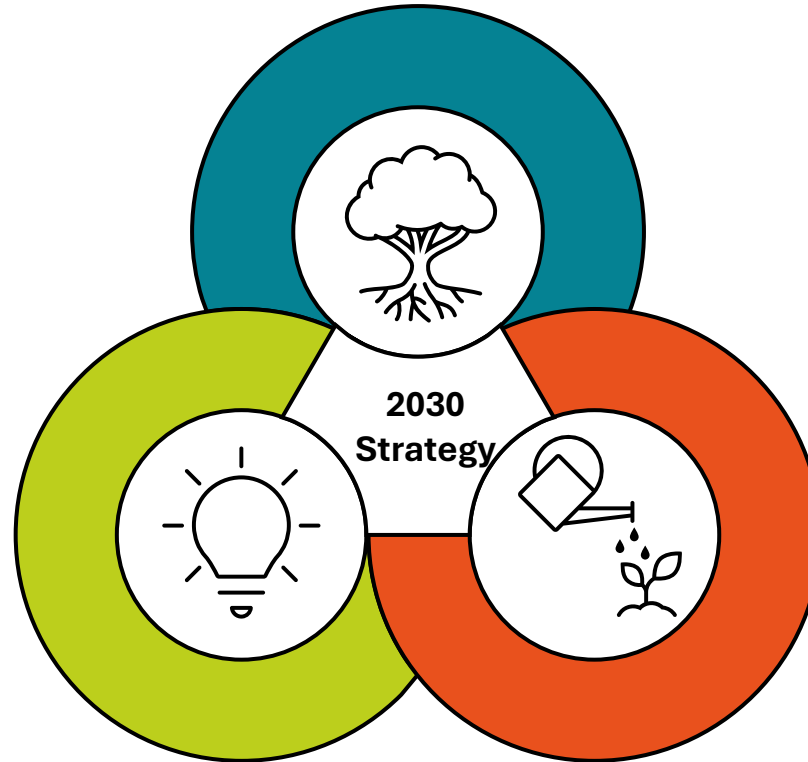




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More space for nature

Ensuring nature exists everywhere by supporting nature's recovery



Nature based solutions

Using nature to address the problems we all face

More people on nature's side

Enabling people to take action for wildlife



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Warwickshire Wildlife Trust
currently manages about 0.4% of
the total land area of Warwickshire,
Coventry and Solihull...





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Golf Clubs: Warwickshire, Coventry & Solihull

Total Area = 2047.4ha

 Warwickshire Wildlife Trust

 County/Unitary Authority

Golf Clubs

 Coventry

 Solihull

 Warwickshire

Kilometres



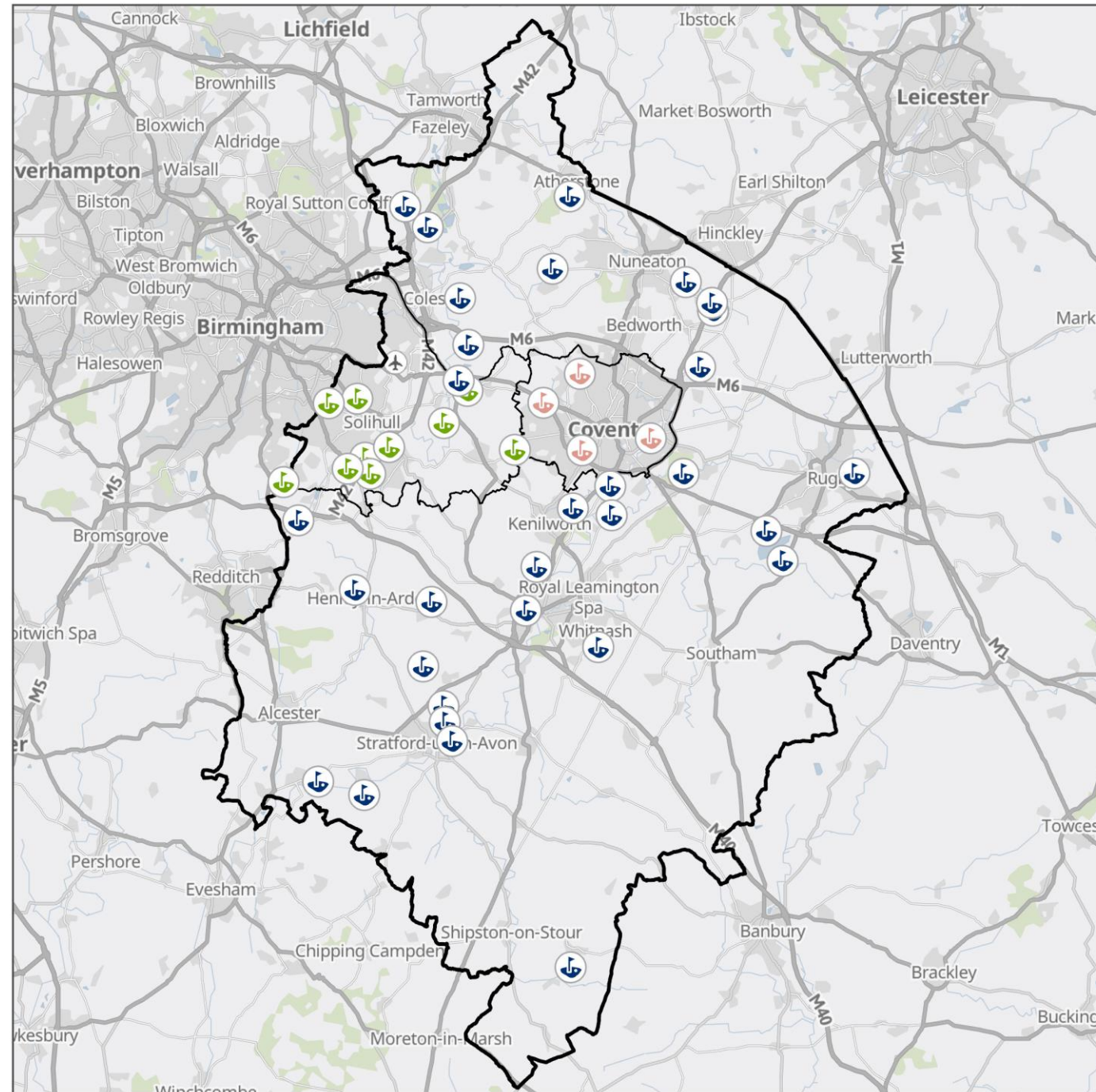
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Date: 07/01/2025



Dead wood



Stonebridge Golf Club



Stoneleigh Deer Park Golf Club



Coventry Golf Club



Stoneleigh Deer Park Golf Club



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- **Why?**

Dead wood is now a rare habitat because we tidy up!

It provides a unique habitat to thousands of species of insect that form the base of the food chain and a lack of dead wood leads to a lack of wildlife that feed on animals that live on it.

- **What?**

Standing dead wood is where the tree is standing up or the branch is still attached to the tree.

Fallen dead wood occurs in the form of a log pile or fallen tree.

- **How?**

Risk assess through a professional tree safety assessment. Only leave dead wood where it is safe to do so.

Where possible leave in situ.

'Tiger rough'



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Coventry Golf Club



Stonebridge Golf Club



Stratford Oaks Golf Club



Stoneleigh Deer Park Golf Club

- **Why?**

Long grass provides valuable habitat for small mammals and insects.

In the wider landscape the area of long grass has reduced due to intensive land use, and so the area of habitat for these species has reduced too.

Small mammals and insects also provide food for predators such as owls and bats further up the food chain.

- **What?**

The grass doesn't have to be sown with wildflowers, although doing so can sometimes help with member engagement.

- **How?**

Let the grass grow through the spring and summer. Cut and ideally collect the grass from mid-august onwards.

Wildflower areas



Kenilworth Golf Club



Coventry Golf Club



Stratford Oaks Golf Club



Stratford Oaks Golf Club



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- **Why?**

Wildflowers support pollinating insects like butterflies and bees. We have lost 98% of our native wildflower grasslands in the UK since the second world war and this loss has had a devastating impact on the insects that rely on them.

Pollinating insects pollinate the plants that provide 1 in every 3 mouthfuls of food we eat. So, without pollinators we would starve.

- **What?**

Wildflowers thrive in low nutrient conditions and are outcompeted by grasses and herbs when nutrient levels are high.

In some circumstances golf clubs already have rare wildflowers present without the need to reintroduce them.

- **How?**

Sow autumn/winter. Cut and remove late summer.

Water management



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Stoneleigh Deer Park Golf Club



Stratford Oaks Golf Club



Stoneleigh Deer Park Golf Club



Stonebridge Golf Club

- **Why?**

Freshwater is critical to all life on earth and our water courses are polluted by human activity.

Water resilience is also critical in the face of climate change.

- **What?**

Buffering ponds, ditches, streams and rivers can help reduce impacts from the golf course and provide wildlife habitat.

A buffer is a longer area of vegetation than on the fairway or green. It doesn't have to be tiger rough in length to have a positive impact.

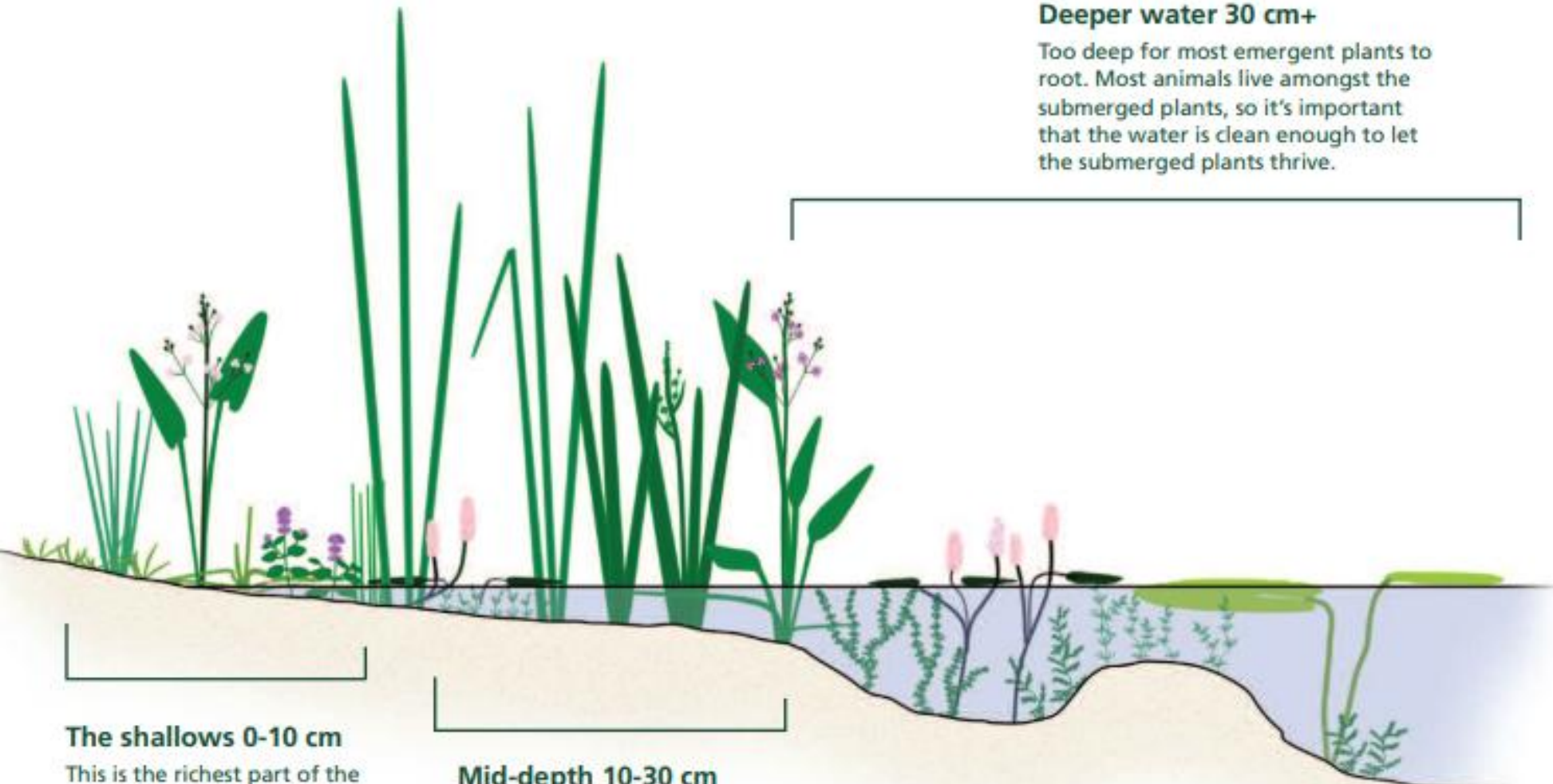
- **How?**

Creating a 1- or 2-metre-wide buffer around water features where cutting frequency is reduced helps to create a natural buffer of longer vegetation.

Water management



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Deeper water 30 cm+

Too deep for most emergent plants to root. Most animals live amongst the submerged plants, so it's important that the water is clean enough to let the submerged plants thrive.

The shallows 0-10 cm

This is the richest part of the pond. Many animal species are only found here living amongst the low submerged grasses and wetland herbs at the waters edge.

Mid-depth 10-30 cm

Tall marginal plants often dominate here, though submerged and floating plants are happy too.

*Image from
Freshwater Habitats
Trust.*

How to make a bat box



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You will need

- an adult to help you
- untreated, rough-sawn timber



- tape measure and pencil



- saw

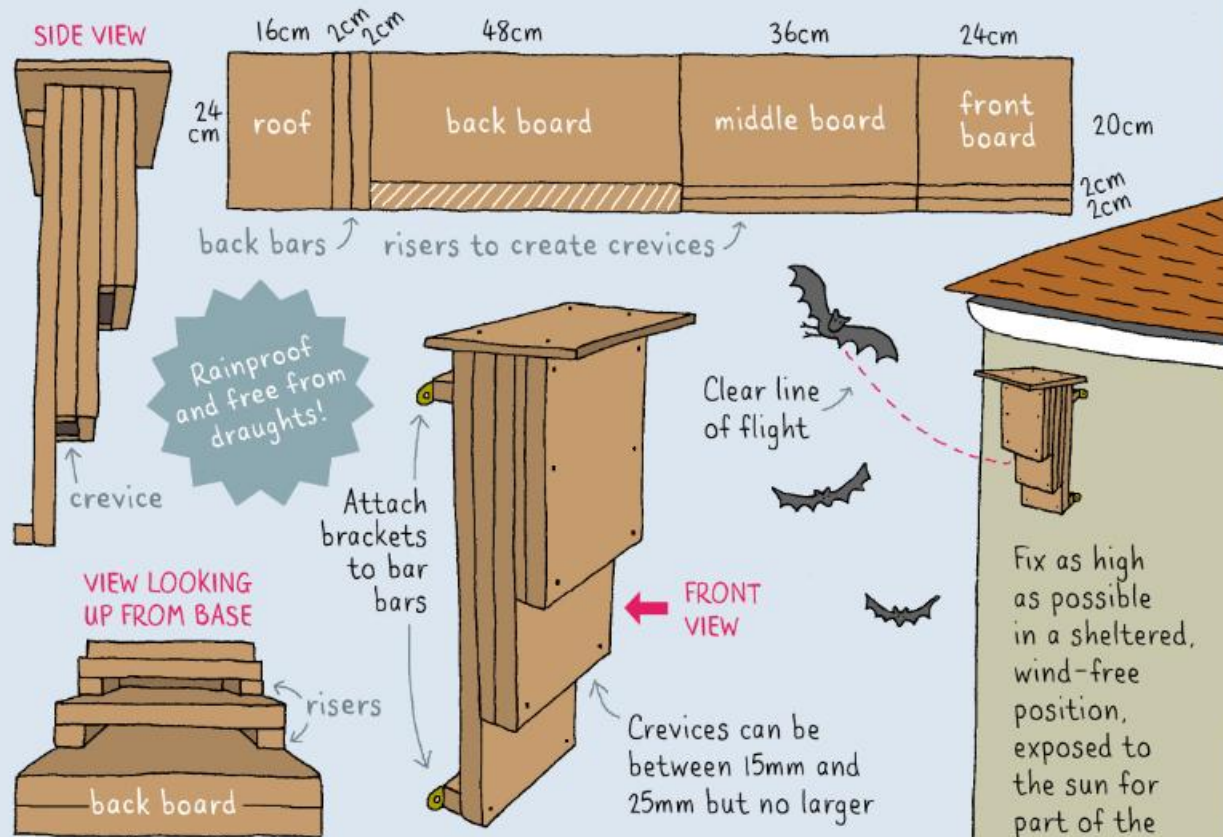


- hammer and nails



Do not use wood stain or preservative on your box

www.wildlifewatch.org.uk



It is illegal to disturb bats without a license - do not inspect boxes if you think bats are using them. Look for droppings below to check for occupancy.

This design has been developed by Kent Bat Group



Why?

Bats naturally roost in old buildings or mature trees, both of which are less common than they were. They also feed on insects which have declined.

What?

Creating bat boxes can be a great way to provide nesting habitat for bats if your golf club lacks old trees that provide natural habitats.

How?

Follow the instructions on the how to guide!

Illustration: Corinne Welch © Copyright Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts 2015



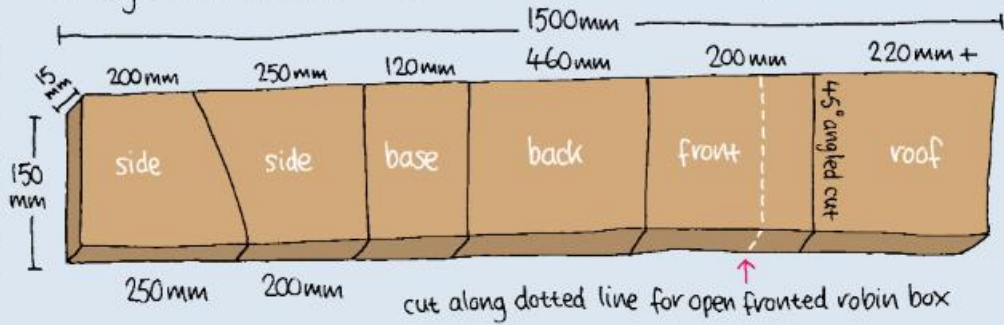
How to make a nest box



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What you need:

- rough cut timber
- some old rubber or a hinge
- 20mm nails
- tools:



1 Mark out and saw panels

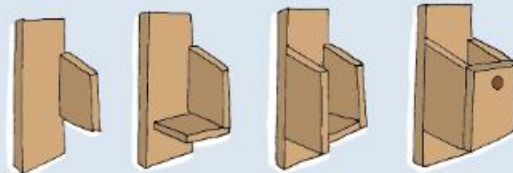
Use diagram above, and write the name of each panel onto the marked out wood.

2 Choose your box type



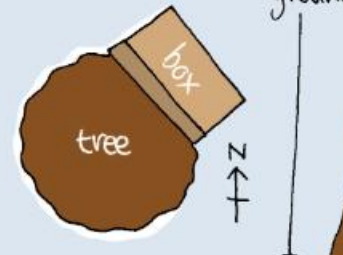
3 Assemble the box

Nail the panels together:



Where to put it:

2-5 metres above the ground, somewhere sheltered.



- Why?

Birds naturally roost in old buildings, mature trees, or hedges. All of which are less common than they were.
- What?

Creating bird boxes can be a great way to provide nesting habitat for birds if your golf club lacks these features.
- How?

Follow the instructions on the how to guide!

Illustration: Corinne Welch © Copyright Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts 2015

How to build a bug hotel



Wildlife
Watch



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You will need:

- Wooden pallets

x4



- Bricks



- Plastic bottles*



- Bamboo canes



- Straw



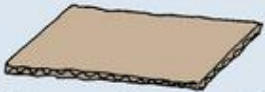
- Leaves



- Tiles



- Cardboard



- Stones/pebbles

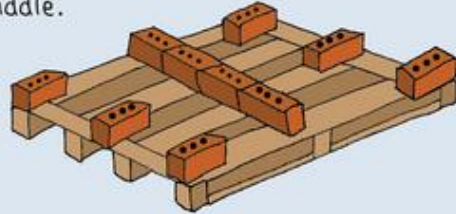


- Twigs/loose bark



*Use old plastic bottles for this, and always recycle after use.

- 1 Place a wooden pallet in your chosen location. On top of the pallet, line bricks around the corners and across the middle.



- 2 Place your next pallet on top of this and repeat the process for all of your pallets.



- 3 Cut off the top two-thirds of your bottles. Fill up half of them with bamboo canes and the other half with rolled up cardboard. Place these inside the hotel.



- 4 Fill in the remaining spaces with bricks, leaves, pebbles, stones, tiles, loose bark and straw.



- 5 Add in any extra materials that you want to recycle e.g. old pipes, carpeting, toilet tubes, old plant pots. Be creative - add a welcome sign or give your hotel a name!



Illustration: Corinne Welch © Copyright Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts 2015



Why?

Insects and bugs have declined significantly in the last few decades. They are at the base of the food chain and support a variety of other species.

What?

Bug hotels need to be located in sunny areas, ideally close to an area with flowers for pollen and nectar.

How?

Follow the instructions on the how to guide!

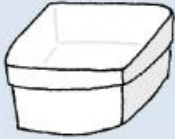
How to build a mini wildlife pond



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You will need:

- a watertight container*



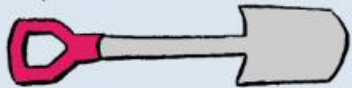
- old bricks, rocks and pebbles



- pond plants



- spade



* Is there anything that you can upcycle? It could be an old washing-up bowl, sink or even a plant pot. Aim for 20-30cm deep.

- 1 Choose a spot. Your pond will need light, but not full sunlight all day. You can dig a hole and sink your container, or just have it sitting on top.
- 2 If the container isn't watertight, e.g. an old plant pot, then add a piece of pond liner.

- 3 Add a layer of gravel and rocks.
- 4 Fill your pond with rainwater (tap water contains chemicals).
- 5 Start planting... you only need two or three plants.
- 6 Now watch and wait! Wildlife will come to your pond of its own accord.

One vertical growing plant that reaches out of the water e.g. flowering rush



Why?

Ponds are now rarer in the wider landscape as we have drained the land and lost the natural wet areas.

What?

A pond of any size can provide a home to a range of species as well as a water source for other wildlife.

How?

Follow the instructions on the how to guide!



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We are wilder together



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