

PRIORITISING INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS **FOR NATURE BIODIVERSITY IMPACTS**

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Contents

Summary	2
Context	3
Identifying actions for nature	4
Rating ecological impacts	4
Survey of the 59 behaviours	4
Workshop	6
Post workshop survey	6
Conclusions	6
References	8
Appendix 1: List of 59 original behaviours	9
Appendix 2: Pre-workshop survey	13
Appendix 3: List of 63 revised behaviours after the ecological impacts workshop	20
Appendix 4: Post-workshop survey	24
Appendix 5: Final rank for 63 rated behaviours	29

Summary

There are many actions individuals can take to support biodiversity, but having so many options can leave people feeling overwhelmed. Given the variety of actions promoted, clear information about their potential impact for nature can help both organisations and individuals to decide between potential actions. Information about the size of the potential target audience for different behaviours, how easy it is to encourage people to take up these actions, and potential barriers will also help organisations determine the overall potential for impact of any actions they champion. Here we report on the first part of a larger project by identifying nature-friendly behaviours and describing their potential ecological impact. More than 60 people across 21 Wildlife Trusts participated in the process.

We identified 'individual and group actions which do, or could, have an ecological impact on nature conservation goals'. 344 actions were reviewed and combined into 63 broader behaviours. These 63 behaviours were described using a short title and a non-exhaustive list of example actions, which can be viewed in Appendix 3. A combination of surveys and a workshop were used to rate the ecological impact of these 63 behaviours, from a scale of 0 (no positive impact) to 4 (highest ecological impact). Very few behaviours received any 0 scores (no positive impact), and all behaviours were perceived by most participants to have some potential ecological impact for UK biodiversity. The five highest scoring behaviours were given scores of 2-4 by all participants in the surveys. These behaviours were 'herbicide and pesticide free gardening', 'choose biodiversity-friendly investments', 'reduce fossil fuel use', 'support nature-friendly formal governance structures', 'create habitats with year-round food for wildlife'. The scores for all 63 behaviours are shown in Figure 3 and Appendix 5. We will continue this work by evaluating the ease of encouraging behaviour change for these 63 behaviours, and determine the potential target audience and barriers. The final part of the project will conduct rapid reviews to evidence the ecological impacts of a selection of highly ranked behaviours.

Context

More than half of UK adults consider climate change and the environment an important issue¹, yet the UK has lost approximately half its biodiversity and 38% of native species are declining². To address this disparity, environmental NGOs (eNGOs) like The Wildlife Trusts are developing programmes that encourage people to perform nature-friendly behaviours. One example is The Wildlife Trusts '30 days wild' campaign which suggested 101 activities participants could carry out within a month³. Having so many options may make people feel overwhelmed and lead to inaction. The 'actions for nature' shortlisted for promotion in such campaigns are chosen based on assumptions about the impact of the actions on attitudes towards nature or nature itself and / or the ease with which individuals can take action. Given the variety of actions promoted, clear information about their potential impact for nature can help both organisations and individuals to decide between potential actions. Information about the size of the potential target audience for different behaviours, how easy it is to encourage people to take up these actions, and potential barriers will also help organisations determine the overall potential for impact of any actions they champion.

At Surrey Wildlife Trust, we are conducting a series of surveys and workshops to:

- 1. Describe the potential ecological impact of different nature-friendly behaviours
- 2. Evaluate the ease of encouraging behaviour change
- 3. Determine the potential target audience and barriers for behaviour change.

This report describes the first two parts of this work; identifying actions for nature and their potential ecological impacts. Further work will be described in future reports (Figure 1).

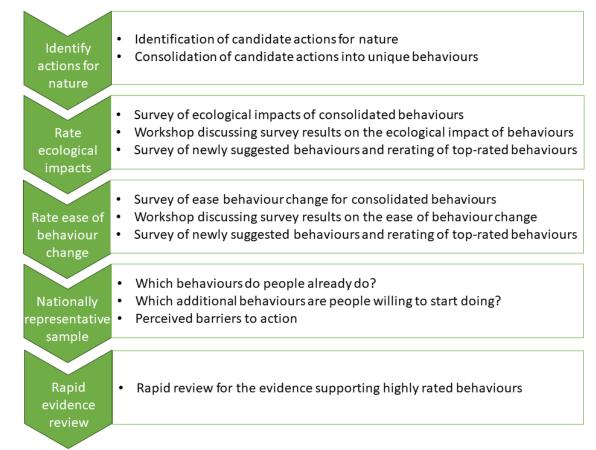


Figure 1: The process for this project. This report describes 'identify actions for nature' and 'rate ecological impacts.

Identifying actions for nature

What is, and is not, pro-nature behaviour has been widely debated, but the definition we used was 'individual and group actions which do, or could, have an ecological impact on nature conservation goals'. This definition includes avoidance behaviours (not taking actions which harm nature e.g. not using peat) and behaviours which benefit nature even when this is not the aim of an individual (e.g. picking up litter because it looks untidy). It also recognises uncertainty about the ecological impacts of many behaviours^{6,7}. The ecological impacts could be direct, such as planting wildflowers for pollinators, or indirect, such as donating to an eNGO which creates or restores wildflower meadows. This impact-focused definition means there are a variety of actions which are often associated with biodiversity conservation which would not be considered actions for nature, such as citizen science projects which collect biological monitoring data. Although such projects provide vital data for conservation projects⁸, can increase participants connection to nature⁹, and have been associated with increased pro-nature behaviours¹⁰, participation in such projects was not considered an action for nature unless there was also a direct or indirect ecological impact.

Candidate actions for nature were generated from the Wildlife Trusts (TWT) website, past and ongoing TWT projects, suggestions by TWT staff, and previous studies of pro-nature actions^{4,5}. Complex behaviours (e.g. wildlife gardening) were separated into individual actions (e.g. not using chemical pesticides). This generated a list of 344 actions for nature. Although the focus was on impacts for UK species and ecosystems, in recognition of global supply chains, this list also included consumption behaviours which had impacts outside the UK. These 344 actions were reviewed and combined into 59 broader behaviours by SP, AC and SJ. Actions were combined using a combination of factors, including similarities in the expected ecological outcomes and the type of behaviour required to undertake the action. For example, behaviours which required a one-off action were separated from ongoing actions (e.g. creating 'ponds for spaces of all sizes' was separate from 'maintain your pond for wildlife'). The 59 behaviours were described using a short title and a non-exhaustive list of example actions, e.g. 'Donate money to conservation: Donate or become a member of nature conservation organisations, make a legacy donation in your will, donate to nature conservation projects'. Descriptions of the 59 behaviours are shown in Appendix 1.

Rating ecological impacts

Survey of the 59 behaviours

A post on The Wildlife Trust's intranet, 'Wildnet', invited staff to complete an online survey to rate the ecological impact of the 59 broader behaviours. Although individuals who worked in ecologist roles were particularly encouraged to participate, the holistic perspective offered by individuals in a variety of roles was particularly valuable due to the indirect impacts of some behaviours (e.g. mediated through donation or advocacy). Participants were instructed to rate each behaviour for their potential positive ecological impact for UK biodiversity if widely adopted, from a scale of 0 (no positive impact) to 4 (highest ecological impact). The survey was closed at 5pm the day before the workshop. Each behaviour was rated by 49-54 people, with contributors from 18 regional Wildlife Trusts. 80% of participants considered themselves 'very' or 'moderately' knowledgeable about the ecological impacts of the behaviours. Participants were also asked whether there were any behaviours they thought should be added to the list. Behaviours were ranked by the percentage of participants who scored the behaviour as either 3 or 4 - the highest possible scores (Figure 2). The full survey is shown in Appendix 2.

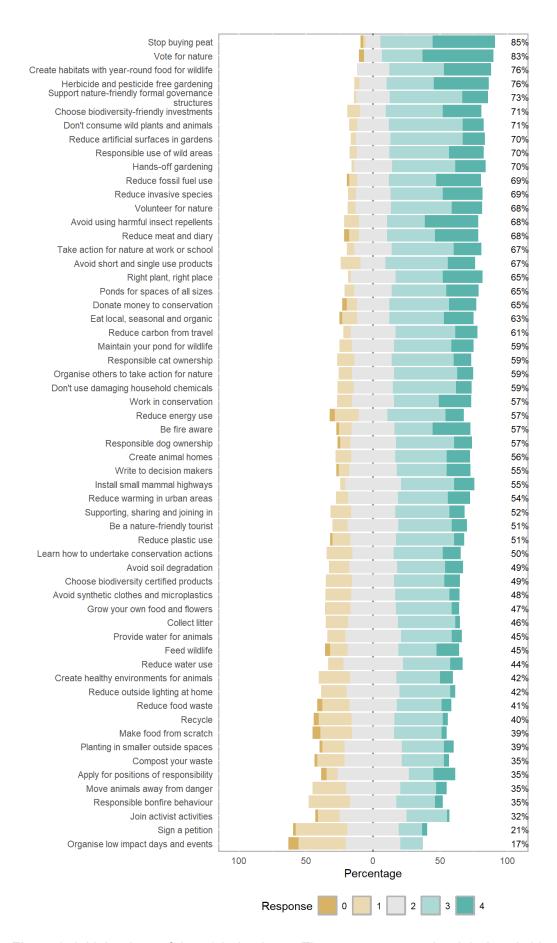


Figure 2: Initial ratings of the 59 behaviours. The percentage on the right-hand side shows the percentage of respondents who rated a behaviour as either a 3 or 4.

Workshop

18 staff from 9 of the regional Wildlife Trusts responded to a Wildnet post and attended a one-hour workshop to review the survey results. The workshop started by presenting the workshop topic. Participants then reviewed 11 potentially missing behaviours suggested by survey participants. Five options were voted for inclusion as new behaviours. These behaviours were 'reduce paper waste', 'buy land for nature', 'reduce family size', 'report illegal behaviour' and 'learn how to undertake climate actions'. The other behaviours were included as examples in the existing behaviours. The behaviour 'compost your waste' was removed as a separate behaviour and instead included as an example of 'avoid soil degradation'. These changes resulted in a total of 63 behaviours, shown in Appendix 3.

Next, the survey ratings for the 59 original behaviours were shared with participants. Participants were then allocated to one of three breakout rooms to discuss whether any behaviours had potential impacts which were higher or lower than their ranks suggested. These suggestions and discussions were shared on the Miro board. Participants then voted on which behaviours to re-rate. These behaviours were included in a follow up survey, along with the newly suggested behaviours. The full survey, which rated 39 behaviours in total, is shown in Appendix 4.

Post workshop survey

As with the first survey, participants were instructed to rate each behaviour for their potential positive ecological impact for UK biodiversity if widely adopted, from a scale of 0 (no positive impact) to 4 (highest ecological impact). Each behaviour was rated by 15-19 people from 10 Wildlife Trusts, most of whom (90%) also completed the first survey. Average scores were calculated for each behaviour (Figure 3). For behaviours rated in both surveys, the scores from the post-workshop survey were used as their final rating, for behaviours which were in only one survey, the score from that survey was used. Very few behaviours received any 0 scores (no positive impact), and all behaviours were perceived by most participants to have some potential ecological impact for UK biodiversity. The five highest scoring behaviours were given scores of 2-4 by all participants in the surveys. These behaviours were 'herbicide and pesticide free gardening', 'choose biodiversity-friendly investments', 'reduce fossil fuel use', 'support nature-friendly formal governance structures', 'create habitats with year-round food for wildlife'. Ratings for all 63 behaviours are shown in Appendix 5.

Conclusions

The final ratings for all 63 behaviours shown below in Figure 3 (and Appendix 5) can be used as a guide for the potential ecological impacts of individual behaviours. As can be seen in Figure 2, there is a good agreement between individuals about these potential impacts, particularly among the top and bottom rated behaviours. The potential ecological impact is, however, just one of the variables that influences the overall impact of any campaign. The ease of changing behaviour, and the size of the potential audience for behaviour change, will also influence the overall impact of a campaign. As described above (Figure 1), this report describes the first two parts of a larger project, and the results described here should be used in conjunction with this upcoming research.

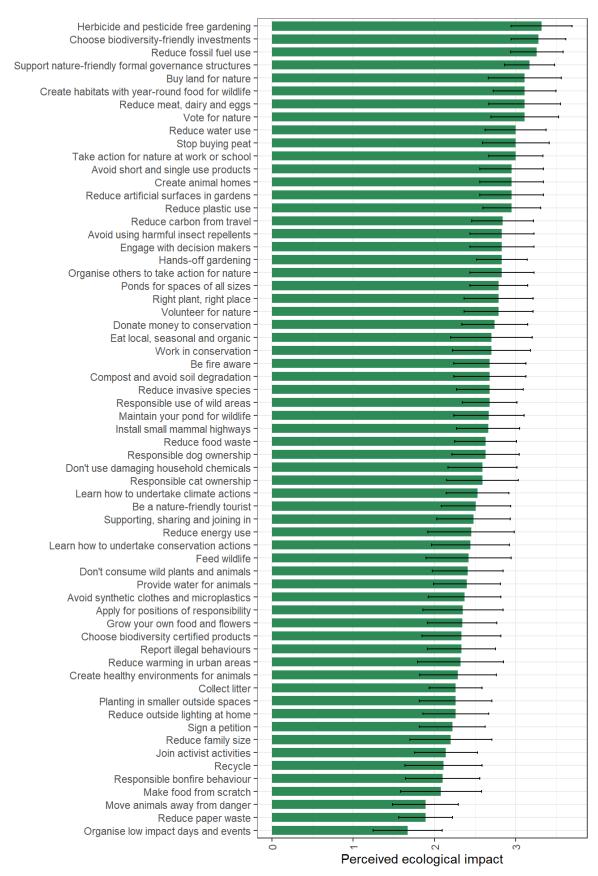


Figure 3: Average ratings of 63 behaviours. The error bars show 1 standard deviation in the ratings given. Behaviours with smaller error bars show greater agreement between individuals.

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Appendix 1: List of 59 original behaviours

Apply for positions of responsibility on an environmental platform: Apply for trusteeships, local government roles

Engage with and advocate for nature-friendly formal governance structures:

Contribute to government consultations, advocate for 'biodiversity-friendly' certification, engage with the planning system for nature.

Join activist activities: Demonstrations, sit-ins, walk-outs

Writing to decision makers to encourage them to take action for nature: Write to local members of parliament or local government about their environmental policies, issues and solutions, write to companies about nature-friendly practices, send 'letters to the Editor'

Sign a petition: Sign petitions which support nature and conservation efforts

Vote for nature: Vote for parties / candidates with strong pro-conservation policies in elections, including local and national politicians, organisation committees and boards, support nature friendly legislation by voting for them when given the opportunity

Don't buy or collect products from wild plants and animals unless from sustainable sources: Don't buy animal products or coral, don't purchase, consume or harvest wild animals, plants or fungi

Choose biodiversity certified products: Choose FSC certified paper and sustainably sourced wood, MSC certified seafood, buy biodiversity friendly coffee and chocolate,

Eat local, seasonal and organic: Choose organic food, local and seasonal produce

Reduce meat and dairy: Reduce beef and lamb consumption, eat less meat, reduce dairy

Stop buying peat: Don't buy peat, ask garden centres what they grow their plants in

Avoid short and single use products: Buy fewer, longer lasting toys, clothes and household items or those made with sustainable materials

Don't use chemicals in the household which are damaging to the environment: Bleaches and other cleaning products, chemicals on clothes and in personal hygiene products.

Avoid synthetic clothes and don't use products which contain microplastics: Avoid buying synthetic fabrics and items with microbeads, Hand-wash synthetic clothes and use micro-fibre catching laundry bags

Choose products with less plastic, avoid plastic products: Reduce packaging, use sustainable or reusable packaging materials, Mend or upcycle clothing, furniture and electronics, Reuse or recycle tins, jars, plastic bottles, buy secondhand gifts, donate to and buy from charity shops

Reduce food waste: Use a veg box, plan meals, eat leftovers, use local food waste collection

Reduce water use: Use a water butt instead of sprinklers in the garden or add drought resistant plants, increase water efficiency in the house e.g. adding a cistern displacement device, fix dripping taps, use eco-settings and full loads for washing machine and dishwasher

Make food from scratch: Make your own food from scratch to avoid packaging and palm oil

Reduce energy use: Add draught-proofing to doors and windows, improve insulation, turn the heating down and appliances off at the mains, wash clothes at 30C, turn off lights overnight and when out of the house

Reduce fossil fuel use: Choose a greener car, change to a renewable energy supplier, replace boiler with a heat pump, get solar panels

Reduce carbon from travel: Walk, bike or car share, avoid flights, use public transport, maintain car and drive efficiently

Avoid using harmful insect repellents: Avoid using insect repellents and pet tick treatments which contain neonicotinoids

Donate money to conservation: Donate or become a member of nature conservation organisations, make a legacy donation in your will, donate to nature conservation projects

Volunteer for nature: Volunteer for activities which take care of the environment, volunteer for a biodiversity conservation organisation (including non-biodiversity skills e.g. IT, graphic design, fundraising etc.), participate in clean-up events

Work in conservation: Use skills for a nature NGO, consultancy or government position, apply for conservation traineeships

Choose biodiversity-friendly investments: Invest in biodiversity friendly companies and products, and devest from companies and products which are harmful to biodiversity

Be a nature-friendly tourist: Visit and support nature-friendly projects e.g. rewilding sites, choose activities with lower impacts on nature, e.g. canoes rather than jet-skis, be aware of negative impacts e.g. lake algal blooms due to over-capacity sewers in tourist season

Responsible cat ownership: Keep cats in at night, use bell collars etc. to prevent cat predation, provide indoor places where play behaviour can replace predation, walk cats on leads

Responsible dog ownership: Walking on lead in sensitive areas and picking up poo Keep dogs on leads in wild areas and follow on-site signage, pick up or bury poo, walk dogs in a SANG rather than nature reserve

Learn how to undertake conservation actions: Attend a wildlife gardening course, go to talks, read books or watch documentaries about nature conservation issues and solutions

Take action for nature at work or school: Creating wildlife garden, advocating for lower impact foods at the canteen, changing business practices to reduce impact on wildlife

Organise others to take action for nature: Litter pick, fundraiser for nature NGOs, sponsored walk, beach clean, corporate volunteer day

Supporting, sharing and joining in: Support those making biodiversity-friendly choices, share stories about nature, join in community actions for nature, tell positive nature stories and support those who are making biodiversity-friendly choices, share posts and articles about conservation on social media

Organise low impact days and events: Provide vegetarian or vegan food at gatherings of friends and family, organise a plastic-free halloween party, go one day without single use plastic

Collect litter: Take a rubbish bag when walking and collect litter, do a beach clean-up

Compost your waste: Create a compost heap or pile in your garden

Herbicide and pesticide free gardening: Practice chemical-free gardening, use companion planting for pest control, Avoid using pesticides, herbicides and synthetic fertilizer

Avoid soil degradation: Rotate annual plants and crops each year, add compost to soil

Grow your own food and flowers: *Grow flowers instead of buying, Grow your own food, plant a fruit tree*

Reduce permeable and artificial surfaces in gardens: Use permeable paving, gravel or plants instead of hard driveway or patio, remove plastic grass, plant hedges instead of using fences

Provide water for animals: Create puddling pool for butterflies, Provide water for animals

Hands-off gardening: Leave no mow zones and wild patches ore reduce mowing frequency, don't trim plants in spring or summer, leave sunflower hearts, ivy flowers, hollow stems and dandelions in the garden, don't remove hedges or trees

Create animal homes: Add bat and bird boxes, insect and bee hotels, leave log or leaf piles for animals, add hibernating spaces for hedgehogs, amphibians or reptiles

Create habitats with food for wildlife throughout throughout the year: Plant plants with different flowering or fruiting seasons

Create healthy environments for animals: Clean bird boxes and feeders, change water for birds daily

Feed wildlife: Put up a bird feeder or butterfly feeding table, feed badgers or hedgehogs, create spaces with flowering plants for pollinators

Install features that allow small mammals to move between areas without problems:

Add a hedgehog hole to fences

Maintain your pond for wildlife: Add submerged aquatic plants to pond, ensure ponds have a shallow edge for wildlife access

Planting in smaller outside spaces: Create a container garden, plant wildlife-friendly herbs or flowers, plant nighttime flowering plants

Ponds for spaces of all sizes: Create a pond suitable for the space, from a bucket or container pond to wetland

Right plant, right place: Add plants which support local wildlife - bog gardens for wet spaces, coastal gardens near the sea, add bushes and shrubs for nesting birds, plant native trees, spring flowering bulbs, and butterfly host plants, use native wild wildflower seed mixes

Reduce warming in urban areas: Grow plants up building walls to cool them, plant shading trees and shrubs

Reduce outside lighting at home: Dim or reduce nighttime garden lighting, use blackout blinds or curtains

Don't take BBQS to wild areas and be careful with cigarettes: Take a picnic instead of BBQ on day out, be careful with cigarette disposal to prevent accidental fire

Responsible bonfire behaviour: Check bonfire for hedgehogs, build bonfire the day it will be lit, protect bonfire with chicken wire

Responsible use of wild areas - follow the countryside code: Dispose of smoking material responsibly on heathland, don't litter, avoid disturbing wildlife

Move animals away from danger: Help at frog and toad road crossings, move insects rather than killing them when finding them at home

Reduce invasive species: Support invasive species removal, avoid planting non-native and invasive species in garden and ponds, follow instructions in wild areas to avoid the spread of invasive species

Recycle: Recycle at home and use council recycling facilities for larger items

Appendix 2: Pre-workshop survey

Thank you for your participation in this project prioritising individual actions for nature.

The following survey presents a variety of potential actions individuals could undertake to support UK biodiversity. In consideration of the aims of the workshop, and to keep the survey short, we've only included actions that a 'typical' person can participate in. While organisational behaviours and rural landholder behaviours are very important in protecting threatened species and biodiversity, this work focuses on actions which individuals take.

Some of these actions are likely to be further divisible but if this is the case please do your best to assess them as a group or class of behaviours. There are 59 behaviours to rate and it would be great to get ratings for as many as possible, but if you are unsure of your answer or running short on time - just select 'next page' and your answers will be saved. Please do take part even if you do not feel confident in your answers - across The Wildlife Trusts there is a lot of knowledge and experience which we hope this survey can collect together to prioritize this longlist of 59 behaviours.

The results from this survey will be presented in two upcoming workshops - details on how to sign up for these workshops are provided at the end of the survey. After the survey and workshops, a literature search will be undertaken for the highly prioritised behaviours to understand the evidence base for their impact, and a nationally representative survey will be conducted to understand how many people in the UK already take these actions, and how many who don't currently take these actions would be willing to do so. Reporting from this study will be shared once each part is completed, with all findings presented together in the new year.

Instructions

The survey will take approximately 15 minutes to complete but you can take as much or as little time as you need.

You can choose to either consider the 'ecological impact' on UK biodiversity if the behaviour was widely adopted, or the 'plasticity' of the behaviour – how likely it is that individuals could be encouraged to engage in the behaviour. Which would you like to consider?

Ecological impact on UK biodiversity if the behaviour was widely adopted
O Whether UK individuals could be encouraged to engage in the behaviour
O Both
We want to measure whether the responses to this survey have good representation across the Wildlife Trusts and different job roles. Which wildlife trust do you work with?
▼ Alderney Wildlife Trust Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

What is your job title?	
The results of this study will be shared and published, but any identifying information will be removed and your answers will be anonymized. Please select 'I consent' below to show your derstand how your answers will be used, then proceed to the next page to start the survey.	
O I consent	

[Only shown if participant chose to rate biodiversity impacts]

Biodiversity impacts

Using the dropdown boxes, please indicate on a scale of 0-4 the potential positive ecological impact for UK biodiversity if the behaviour was widely adopted (0 being no positive impact and 4 for behaviours with the highest ecological impact). For each behaviour, there is a short description with a non-exhaustive list of examples. Base your decision on your own knowledge and the information provided. You do not have to provide a rating for all behaviours - if you do not know, please select this option.

When assessing impacts for UK biodiversity, please think of both species and habitats, as well as the environmental conditions (e.g. soil or water quality) which allow biodiversity to thrive.

[Only shown if participant decided to rate ease of behaviour change]

Ease of behaviour change

Using the dropdown boxes, please indicate on a scale of 0-4 how easy you think it is to persuade people in the UK to do the behaviour (0 being no-one could be persuaded to do this behaviour and 4 for behaviours which it is easiest to persuade people in the UK to do). For each behaviour, there is a short description with a non-exhaustive list of examples. Base your decision on your own knowledge and the information provided. You do not have to provide a rating for all behaviours - if you do not know, please select this option. When assessing plasticity, please think of potential benefits (e.g. money-saving, wellbeing, etc.) and barriers (e.g. time, money, social norms, etc.) of the behaviour.

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Move animals away from danger: Help at frog and toad road crossings, move insects rather than killing them when finding them at home

Reduce invasive species: Support invasive species removal, avoid planting non-native and invasive species in garden and ponds, follow instructions in wild areas to avoid the spread of invasive species

Recycle: Recycle at home and use council recycling facilities for larger items

individual behaviours:
O Not knowledgeable at all
Slightly knowledgeable
Moderately knowledgeable
O Very knowledgeable
Extremely knowledgeable
How confident are you in your knowledge and/or experience of behaviour change:
O Not knowledgeable at all
Slightly knowledgeable
Moderately knowledgeable
O Very knowledgeable
Extremely knowledgeable
Are there any behaviours which you think should be included in this list but are not?

How confident are you in your knowledge and/or experience of ecological impacts of

Thank you again for your time. Please do attend the workshops to discuss these behaviours and participate in the final rankings.

The first workshop will focus on the ecological impact of the behaviours (10am on 26th September) and the second on how likely it is that individuals can be encouraged to engage in the behaviour (date TBC). If you'd like to attend either workshop and haven't yet registered, or would like to receive updates about this project, please do so here: https://forms.office.com/e/z2Y2UTRZ06.

If you have any queries please contact Sarah Papworth: sarah.papworth@surreywt.org.uk

Appendix 3: List of 63 revised behaviours after the ecological impacts workshop

Apply for positions of responsibility on an environmental platform: Apply for trusteeships, local government roles

Reduce paper waste: Reduce printing, buy second hand books

Report illegal behaviours: Alert authorities of anti-nature behaviour e.g. fly tipping, wildfire,

pollution, persecution

Buy land for nature: Purchase and manage land for biodiversity

Reduce family size: Having fewer children, planning the size of your family

Engage with and advocate for nature-friendly formal governance structures: Contribute to government consultations, advocate for 'biodiversity-friendly' certification, engage with the planning system for nature.

Learn how to undertake climate actions: Attend courses to understand UK climate change impacts and actions to lessen/mitigate the impact

Join activist activities: Demonstrations, sit-ins, walk-outs

Engage with decision makers to encourage them to take action for nature: Engage directly with local / national government, political parties, trade unions, employers, companies. Includes writing to local members of parliament or local government about their environmental policies, issues and solutions, writing to companies about nature-friendly practices, sending 'letters to the Editor'

Sign a petition: Sign petitions which support nature and conservation efforts

Vote for nature: Vote for parties / candidates with strong pro-conservation policies in elections, including local and national politicians, organisation committees and boards, support nature friendly legislation by voting for them when given the opportunity

Don't buy, consume or collect products from plants and animals unless from sustainable sources: Don't buy animal products, coral, exotic pets, don't purchase, consume or harvest wild animals, plants or fungi, don't buy products made from leather and silk

Choose biodiversity certified products: Choose FSC certified paper and sustainably sourced wood, MSC certified seafood, buy biodiversity friendly coffee and chocolate

Eat local, seasonal and organic: Choose organic food, local and seasonal produce

Reduce meat, dairy and eggs: Reduce beef and lamb consumption, eat less meat, reduce dairy, eat plant-based meals, feed pets insect or vegetarian foods

Stop buying peat: Don't buy peat, ask garden centres what they grow their plants in

Avoid short and single use products: Buy fewer, longer lasting toys, clothes and household items or those made with sustainable materials

Don't use chemicals in the household which are damaging to the environment: *Bleaches and other cleaning products, chemicals on clothes and in personal hygiene products.*

Avoid synthetic clothes and don't use products which contain microplastics: Avoid buying synthetic fabrics and items with microbeads, Hand-wash synthetic clothes and use micro-fibre catching laundry bags

Choose products with less plastic, avoid plastic products: Reduce packaging, use sustainable or reusable packaging materials, Mend or upcycle clothing, furniture and electronics, Reuse or recycle tins, jars, plastic bottles, buy secondhand gifts, donate to and buy from charity shops

Reduce food waste: Use a veg box, plan meals, eat leftovers, use local food waste collection

Reduce water use: Use a water butt instead of sprinklers in the garden or add drought resistant plants, increase water efficiency in the house e.g. adding a cistern displacement device, fix dripping taps, use eco-settings and full loads for washing machine and dishwasher

Make food from scratch: Make your own food from scratch to avoid packaging and palm oil

Reduce energy use: Add draught-proofing to doors and windows, improve insulation, turn the heating down and appliances off at the mains, wash clothes at 30C, turn off lights overnight and when out of the house

Reduce fossil fuel use: Choose a greener car, change to a renewable energy supplier, replace boiler with a heat pump, get solar panels

Reduce carbon from travel: Walk, bike or car share, avoid flights, use public transport, maintain car and drive efficiently, attend meetings remotely rather than in person

Avoid using harmful insect repellents: Avoid using insect repellents and pet tick treatments which contain neonicotinoids

Donate money to conservation: Donate or become a member of nature conservation organisations, make a legacy donation in your will, donate to nature conservation projects

Volunteer for nature: Volunteer for activities which take care of the environment, volunteer for a biodiversity conservation organisation (including non-biodiversity skills e.g. IT, graphic design, fundraising etc.), participate in clean-up events

Work in conservation: Use skills for a nature NGO, consultancy or government position, apply for conservation traineeships

Choose biodiversity-friendly investments: Invest in biodiversity friendly companies and products, and devest from companies and products which are harmful to biodiversity

Be a nature-friendly tourist: Visit and support nature-friendly projects e.g. rewilding sites, choose activities with lower impacts on nature, e.g. canoes rather than jet-skis, be aware of negative impacts e.g. lake algal blooms due to over-capacity sewers in tourist season

Responsible cat ownership: Keep cats in at night, use bell collars etc. to prevent cat predation, provide indoor places where play behaviour can replace predation, walk cats on leads

Responsible dog ownership: Walking on lead in sensitive areas and picking up poo Keep dogs on leads in wild areas and follow on-site signage, pick up or bury poo, walk dogs in a SANG rather than nature reserve

Learn how to undertake conservation actions: Attend a wildlife gardening course, go to talks, read books or watch documentaries about nature conservation issues and solutions

Take action for nature at work or school: Creating wildlife garden, advocating for lower impact foods at the canteen, changing business practices to reduce impact on wildlife

Organise others to take action for nature: *Litter pick, fundraiser for nature NGOs, sponsored walk, beach clean, corporate volunteer day*

Supporting, sharing and joining in: Support those making biodiversity-friendly choices, share stories about nature, join in community actions for nature, tell positive nature stories and support those who are making biodiversity-friendly choices, share posts and articles about conservation on social media

Organise low impact days and events: Provide vegetarian or vegan food at gatherings of friends and family, organise a plastic-free halloween party, go one day without single use plastic

Collect litter: Take a rubbish bag when walking and collect litter, do a beach clean-up

Herbicide and pesticide free gardening: Practice chemical-free gardening, use companion planting for pest control, Avoid using pesticides, herbicides and synthetic fertilizer

Avoid soil degradation: Create a compost heap or pile in your garden, add compost to soil, rotate annual plants and crops in the vegetable patch

Grow your own food and flowers: Grow flowers instead of buying, Grow your own food, plant a fruit tree

Reduce permeable and artificial surfaces in gardens: Use permeable paving, gravel or plants instead of hard driveway or patio, remove plastic grass, plant hedges instead of using fences

Provide water for animals: Create puddling pool for butterflies, Provide water for animals

Hands-off gardening: Leave no mow zones and wild patches ore reduce mowing frequency, don't trim plants in spring or summer, leave sunflower hearts, ivy flowers, hollow stems and dandelions in the garden, don't remove hedges or trees

Create animal homes: Add bat and bird boxes, insect and bee hotels, leave log or leaf piles for animals, add hibernating spaces for hedgehogs, amphibians or reptiles

Create habitats with food for wildlife throughout throughout the year: Plant plants with different flowering or fruiting seasons

Create healthy environments for animals: Clean bird boxes and feeders, change water for birds daily

Feed wildlife: Put up a bird feeder or butterfly feeding table, feed badgers or hedgehogs, create spaces with flowering plants for pollinators

Install features that allow small mammals to move between areas without problems: Add a hedgehog hole to fences

Maintain your pond for wildlife: Add submerged aquatic plants to pond, ensure ponds have a shallow edge for wildlife access

Planting in smaller outside spaces: Create a container garden, plant wildlife-friendly herbs or flowers, plant nighttime flowering plants

Ponds for spaces of all sizes: Create a pond suitable for the space, from a bucket or container pond to wetland

Right plant, right place: Add plants which support local wildlife - bog gardens for wet spaces, coastal gardens near the sea, add bushes and shrubs for nesting birds, plant native trees, spring flowering bulbs, and butterfly host plants, use native wild wildflower seed mixes

Reduce warming in urban areas: Grow plants up building walls to cool them, plant shading trees and shrubs

Reduce outside lighting at home: Dim or reduce nighttime garden lighting, use blackout blinds or curtains

Be fire aware: Don't take BBQS to wild areas, be careful with cigarette disposal to prevent accidental fire

Responsible bonfire behaviour: Check bonfire for hedgehogs, build bonfire the day it will be lit, protect bonfire with chicken wire

Responsible use of wild areas - follow the countryside code: Don't litter, avoid disturbing wildlife, dispose of smoking material responsibly

Move animals away from danger: Help at frog and toad road crossings, take injured wild animals to rescue centres, move insects rather than killing them when finding them at home

Reduce invasive species: Support invasive species removal, avoid planting non-native and invasive species in garden and ponds, follow instructions in wild areas to avoid the spread of invasive species

Recycle: Recycle at home and use council recycling facilities for larger items

Appendix 4: Post-workshop survey

Thank you for your participation in this project prioritising individual actions for nature. In consideration of the aims of the workshop, we've only included actions that a 'typical' person can participate in. While organisational behaviours and rural landholder behaviours are very important in protecting threatened species and biodiversity, this work focuses on actions which individuals take.

The following survey presents the top ranking actions and possible new actions for consideration as a result of the workshop. Based on your own knowledge and any discussion during the workshop, please rate these behaviours for the potential ecological impact.

Instructions

L consent

O No

The survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete but you can take as much or as little time as you need.

The results of this study will be shared and published, but any identifying information will be removed and your answers will be anonymized. Please select 'I consent' below to show you understand how your answers will be used, then proceed to the next page to start the survey.

We want to measure whether the responses to this survey have good representation across the Wildlife Trusts and different job roles. Which wildlife trust do you work with?
▼ Alderney Wildlife Trust Yorkshire Wildlife Trust
What is your job title?
Did you complete the pre-workshop survey?
○ Yes

Remember to assess the potential ecological impact of these behaviours if they were widely adopted by individuals, rather than the impact if adopted by a single individual. Ease of behavioural change will be considered separately so please only consider the **ecological impact** of the behaviour if widely adopted in the UK. Using the dropdown boxes, please indicate on a scale of 0-4 the potential positive **ecological impact** for UK biodiversity if the behaviour was widely adopted (0 being no positive impact and 4 for behaviours with the highest ecological impact). When assessing impacts for UK biodiversity, please think of

both species and habitats, as well as the environmental conditions (e.g. soil or water quality) which allow biodiversity to thrive.

Below are the newly suggested behaviours identified in the workshop, plus behaviours where the description was edited or adapted as a result of the workshop.

Reduce paper waste: Reduce printing, buy second hand books

Reduce meat, dairy and eggs: Reduce beef and lamb consumption, eat less meat, reduce dairy, eat plant-based meals, feed pets insect or vegetarian food

Report illegal behaviours: Alert authorities of antinature behaviour e.g. fly tipping, wildfire, pollution, persecution

Don't buy, consume or collect products from plants and animals unless from sustainable sources: Don't buy animal products, coral, exotic pets, don't purchase, consume or harvest wild animals, plants or fungi, don't buy products made from leather and silk

Learn how to undertake climate actions: Attend courses to understand UK climate change impacts and actions to lessen/mitigate the impact

Buy land for nature: Purchase and manage land for biodiversity

Reduce family size: Having fewer children, planning the size of your family

Engage with decision makers: Engage directly with local / national government, political parties, trade unions, employers, companies. Includes writing to local members of parliament or local government about their environmental policies, issues and solutions, writing to companies about nature-friendly practices, sending 'letters to the Editor'

Move animals away from danger: Help at frog and toad road crossings, take injured wild animals to rescue centres, move insects rather than killing them when finding them at home

Reduce carbon from travel: Walk, bike or car share, avoid flights, use public transport, maintain car and drive efficiently, attend meetings remotely rather than in person.

Compost and avoid soil degradation: Create a compost heap or pile in your garden, add compost to soil, rotate annual plants and crops in the vegetable patch

- ▼ I don't know... 4: highest possible impact
- ▼ I don't know ... 4: highest possible impact
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- ▼ I don't know ... 4: highest possible impact

Below are behaviours not included above which were previously rated as top 20 behaviours, or were identified in the workshop as having higher potential impact than suggested in the initial ranking. Please rerate these behaviours for their potential ecological impact.

Vote for nature: Vote for parties / candidates with strong pro-conservation policies in elections, including local and national politicians, organisation committees and boards, support nature friendly legislation by voting for them when given the opportunity

- Engage with and advocate for nature-friendly formal governance structures: Contribute to government consultations, advocate for 'biodiversity-friendly' certification, engage with the planning system for nature
- **Stop buying peat:** Don't buy peat, ask garden centres what they grow their plants in
- Avoid short and single use products: Buy fewer, longer lasting toys, clothes and household items or those made with sustainable materials
- Reduce fossil fuel use: Choose a greener car, change to a renewable energy supplier, replace boiler with a heat pump, get solar panels
 - Avoid using harmful insect repellents: Avoid using insect repellents and pet tick treatments which contain neonicotinoids
- Donate money to conservation: Donate or become a member of nature conservation organisations, make a legacy donation in your will, donate to nature conservation projects
- Volunteer for nature: Volunteer for activities which take care of the environment, volunteer for a biodiversity conservation organisation (including non-biodiversity skills e.g. IT, graphic design, fundraising etc.), participate in clean-up events
- Choose biodiversity-friendly investments: Invest in biodiversity friendly companies and products, and devest from companies and products which are harmful to biodiversity
- Take action for nature at work or school: Creating wildlife garden, advocating for lower impact foods at the canteen, changing business practices to reduce impact on wildlife
- Herbicide and pesticide free gardening: Practice chemical-free gardening, use companion planting for pest control, Avoid using pesticides, herbicides and synthetic fertilizer

- ▼ I don't know ... 4: highest possible impact
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Reduce artificial surfaces in gardens: Use permeable paving, gravel or plants instead of hard driveway or patio, remove plastic grass, plant hedges instead of using fences

Hands-off gardening: Leave no mow zones and wild patches ore reduce mowing frequency, don't trim plants in spring or summer, leave sunflower hearts, ivy flowers, hollow stems and dandelions in the garden, don't remove hedges or trees

Create habitats with food for wildlife throughout throughout the year: Plant plants with different flowering or fruiting seasons

Ponds for spaces of all sizes: Create a pond suitable for the space, from a bucket or container pond to wetland

Right plant, right place: Add plants which support local wildlife - bog gardens for wet spaces, coastal gardens near the sea, add bushes and shrubs for nesting birds, plant native trees, spring flowering bulbs, and butterfly host plants, use native wild wildflower seed mixes

Responsible use of wild areas - follow the countryside code: Don't litter, avoid disturbing wildlife, dispose of smoking material responsibly

Reduce invasive species: Support invasive species removal, avoid planting non-native and invasive species in garden and ponds, follow instructions in wild areas to avoid the spread of invasive species

Sign a petition: Sign petitions which support nature and conservation efforts

Organise others to take action for nature: Litter pick, fundraiser for nature NGOs, sponsored walk, beach clean, corporate volunteer day

Be fire aware: Don't take BBQS to wild areas, be careful with cigarette disposal to prevent accidental fire

Responsible dog ownership: Walking on lead in sensitive areas and picking up poo, keep dogs on leads in wild areas and follow on-site signage, pick up or bury poo, walk dogs in a SANG rather than nature reserve

Reduce food waste: Use a veg box, plan meals, eat leftovers, use local food waste collection

Choose products with less plastic, avoid plastic products: Reduce packaging, use sustainable or reusable packaging materials, Mend or upcycle clothing, furniture and electronics, Reuse or recycle tins, jars, plastic bottles, buy secondhand gifts, donate to and buy from charity shops

Collect litter: Take a rubbish bag when walking and collect litter, do a beach clean-up

- ▼ I don't know ... 4: highest possible impact
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Reduce water use: Use a water butt instead of sprinklers in the garden or add drought resistant plants, increase water efficiency in the house e.g. adding a cistern displacement device, fix dripping taps, use eco-settings and full loads for washing machine and dishwasher

Reduce warming in urban areas: Grow plants up building walls to cool them, plant shading trees and shrubs

Choose biodiversity certified products: Choose FSC certified paper and sustainably sourced wood, MSC certified seafood, buy biodiversity friendly coffee and chocolate

- ▼ I don't know... 4: highest possible impact
- ▼ I don't know... 4: highest possible impact
- ▼ I don't know... 4: highest possible impact

For which three of these behaviours would you be most interested to see a review of their impact on UK biodiversity?

Vote for nature; Engage with and advocate for nature-friendly formal governance structures; Stop buying peat; Avoid short and single use products; Reduce fossil fuel use; Avoid using harmful insect repellents; Donate money to conservation; Volunteer for nature; Choose biodiversity-friendly investments; Take action for nature at work or school; Herbicide and pesticide free gardening; Herbicide and pesticide free gardening; Reduce artificial surfaces in gardens; Hands-off gardening; Create habitats with food for wildlife throughout the year; Ponds for spaces of all sizes; Right plant, right place; Responsible use of wild areas - follow the countryside code; Reduce invasive species; Sign a petition; Organise others to take action for nature; Be fire aware; Responsible dog ownership; Reduce food waste; Choose products with less plastic, avoid plastic products; Reduce water use; Collect litter; Reduce warming in urban areas; Choose biodiversity certified products; Reduce paper waste; Reduce meat, dairy and eggs; Report illegal behaviours; Buy land for nature; Reduce family size; Learn how to undertake climate actions; Engage with decision makers to encourage them to take action for nature; Don't buy, consume or collect products from plants and animals unless from sustainable sources; Reduce carbon from travel; Compost and avoid soil degradation; Move animals away from danger.

How confident are you in your knowledge and/or experience of ecological impacts of individual behaviours:

O Not knowledgeable at all
O Slightly knowledgeable
Moderately knowledgeable
O Very knowledgeable
Extremely knowledgeable

Thank you again for your time. If you have any queries please contact Sarah Papworth: sarah.papworth@surreywt.org.uk

Appendix 5: Final rank for 63 rated behaviours

Behaviour	Final score	Pre- workshop survey average	Post- workshop survey average	Score change
Herbicide and pesticide free gardening	3.32	3.13	3.32	0.19
Choose biodiversity-friendly investments	3.28	2.90	3.28	0.13
Reduce fossil fuel use	3.26	2.92	3.26	0.34
Support nature-friendly formal governance	0.20	2.02	0.20	0.01
structures	3.17	2.90	3.17	0.26
Create habitats with year-round food for				
wildlife	3.11	3.11	NA	NA
Buy land for nature	3.11	NA	3.11	NA
Vote for nature	3.11	3.28	3.11	-0.17
Reduce meat, dairy and eggs	3.11	2.85	3.11	0.26
Reduce water use	3.00	2.43	3.00	0.57
Take action for nature at work or school	3.00	2.81	3.00	0.19
Stop buying peat	3.00	3.26	3.00	-0.26
Reduce plastic use	2.95	2.42	2.95	0.53
Create animal homes	2.95	2.62	2.95	0.33
Avoid short and single use products	2.95	2.72	2.95	0.23
Reduce artificial surfaces in gardens	2.95	2.83	2.95	0.11
Reduce carbon from travel	2.84	2.72	2.84	0.12
Engage with decision makers	2.83	NA	2.83	NA
Organise others to take action for nature	2.83	2.61	2.83	0.23
Hands-off gardening	2.83	2.91	2.83	-0.07
Avoid using harmful insect repellents	2.83	2.96	2.83	-0.13
Ponds for spaces of all sizes	2.79	2.81	2.79	-0.03
Volunteer for nature	2.79	2.85	2.79	-0.06
Right plant, right place	2.79	2.93	2.79	-0.14
Donate money to conservation	2.74	2.70	2.74	0.03
Eat local, seasonal and organic	2.70	2.70	NA	NA
Work in conservation	2.70	2.70	NA	NA
Compost and avoid soil degradation	2.68	NA	2.68	NA
Be fire aware	2.68	2.72	2.68	-0.03
Responsible use of wild areas	2.68	2.91	2.68	-0.22
Reduce invasive species	2.68	2.93	2.68	-0.24
Maintain your pond for wildlife	2.67	2.67	NA	NA
Install small mammal highways	2.66	2.66	NA	NA
Reduce food waste	2.63	2.20	2.63	0.43
Responsible dog ownership	2.63	2.58	2.63	0.05
Responsible cat ownership	2.59	2.59	NA	NA
Don't use damaging household chemicals	2.59	2.59	NA	NA
Learn how to undertake climate actions	2.53	NA	2.53	NA
Be a nature-friendly tourist	2.51	2.51	NA	NA
Supporting, sharing and joining in	2.48	2.48	NA	NA
Reduce energy use	2.45	2.45	NA	NA

Learn how to undertake conservation				
actions	2.44	2.44	NA	NA
Feed wildlife	2.42	2.42	NA	NA
Don't consume wild plants and animals	2.41	2.80	2.41	-0.39
Provide water for animals	2.40	2.40	NA	NA
Avoid synthetic clothes and microplastics	2.37	2.37	NA	NA
Apply for positions of responsibility	2.35	2.35	NA	NA
Grow your own food and flowers	2.34	2.34	NA	NA
Report illegal behaviours	2.33	NA	2.33	NA
Choose biodiversity certified products	2.33	2.41	2.33	-0.08
Reduce warming in urban areas	2.32	2.61	2.32	-0.30
Create healthy environments for animals	2.29	2.29	NA	NA
Reduce outside lighting at home	2.26	2.26	NA	NA
Collect litter	2.26	2.33	2.26	-0.07
Planting in smaller outside spaces	2.26	2.26	NA	NA
Sign a petition	2.22	1.83	2.22	0.40
Reduce family size	2.20	NA	2.20	NA
Join activist activities	2.14	2.14	NA	NA
Recycle	2.11	2.11	NA	NA
Responsible bonfire behaviour	2.10	2.10	NA	NA
Make food from scratch	2.08	2.08	NA	NA
Reduce paper waste	1.89	NA	1.89	NA
Move animals away from danger	1.89	2.17	1.89	-0.28
Organise low impact days and events	1.67	1.67	NA	NA