



# WHY BIODIVERSITY MATTERS

**GROUNDWORK**  
CHANGING PLACES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WHAT DOES BIODIVERSITY MEAN?

Biodiversity is simply the variety of life around us - plants, animals, fungi, even tiny microorganisms - and the ecosystems they help create.

Right now, the UK has one of the lowest biodiversity levels in Europe. But there's good news: restoring our woodlands, wetlands, heaths and wild grasslands could help capture **up to 12%** of our greenhouse gas emissions. Nature really does pull its weight.





# NATURE HELPS

# OUR CITIES TOO

Bringing nature back into towns and cities does more than make them look nice:

- > **Keeps our streets cooler**  
Natural shade can lower temperatures by around 0.5°C.
- > **Helps prevent flooding**  
Trees and plants soak up rainwater.
- > **Boosts wellbeing**  
Greener places make for healthier, happier communities.

## SEEING NATURE IN ACTION



During many volunteering days, we use the **NatureWise tool** to help bring these ideas to life, showing how everyday spaces can better support wildlife.

It's a practical way to explore what helps nature thrive, and to spark ideas you can take away and use in your own space.

# HOW YOU CAN HELP

## 1. GREEN YOUR SPACE

Even tiny changes can have a big impact.

### GROW UPWARDS

Use trellises, climbers, arches and living walls.

### ADD A MINI-POND

From a bucket to a full pond, just make sure wildlife can get in and out safely.

### BE A LAZY GARDENER

Skip mowing in May and let wildflowers feed the pollinators.

### SEASONAL BUFFETS

A window box or plant pot is enough. Try herbs like rosemary, lavender, sage, thyme, mint, chives, fennel, hyssop, marjoram, and caraway.

## 2. GET INVOLVED

Create a green future for your neighbourhood.

- > **Volunteer** by joining tree-planting, community gardening or local nature events.
- > **Support local groups** such as Friends of Parks, rewilding projects, community gardens.
- > **Speak up for nature** by letting councillors and developers know that green spaces matter.
- > **Stay connected** by checking our website for volunteering and community opportunities.

## 3. SHARE YOUR BIODIVERSITY JOURNEY

Upload your photos and updates via social media.

Don't forget to tag us! We'd love to see your posts.

 @Groundwork  @groundwork\_uk  Groundwork

