



# Creating Space for Nature



**Kate Sheard**

**Wilder Communities Officer**

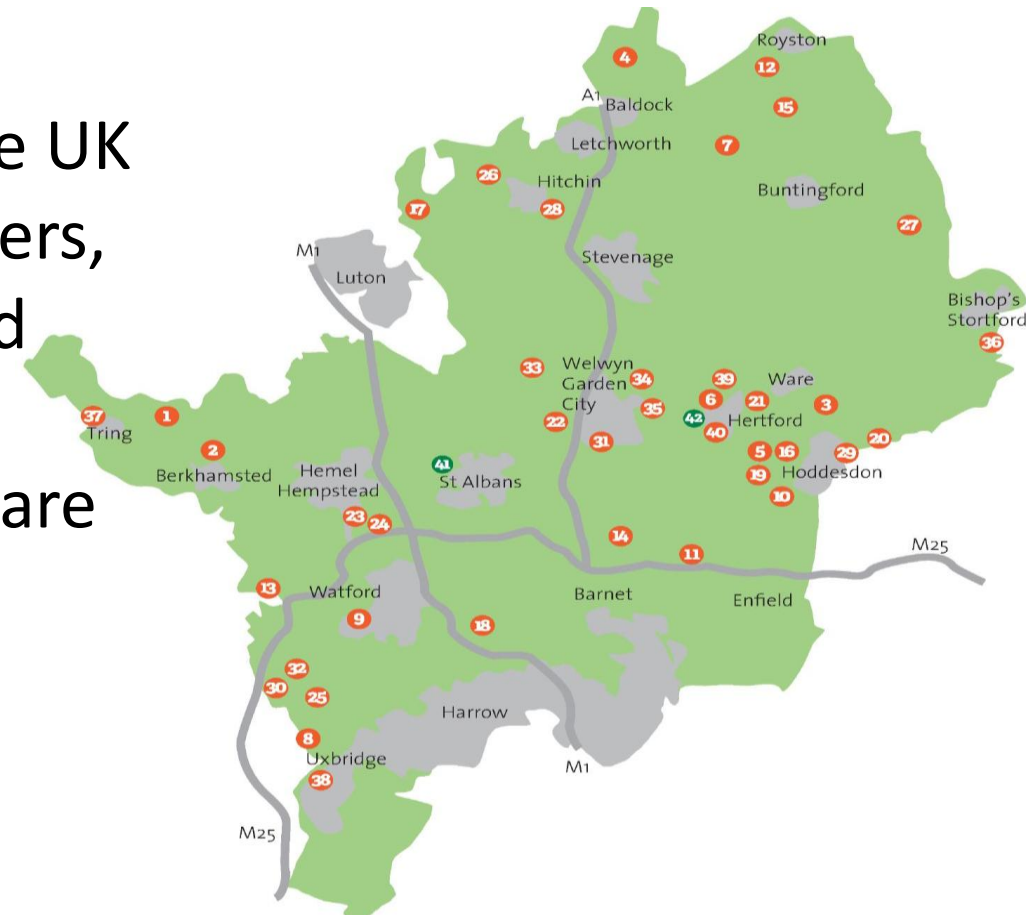
Welwyn Garden City, Hatfield, Hertford & Ware

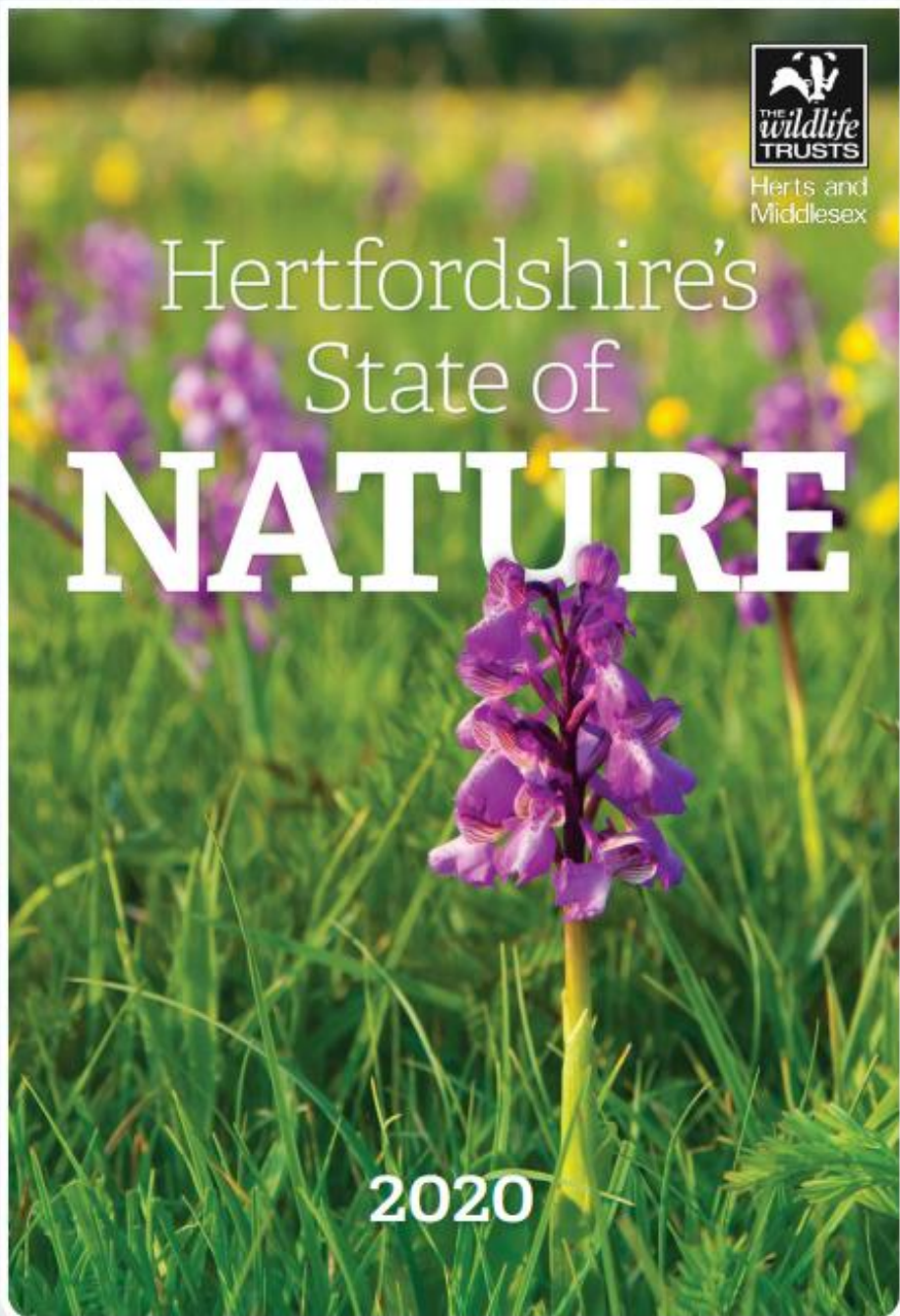
**Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust**

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- 46 Wildlife Trusts in the UK
- Protect local wildlife and habitats
- Manager over 2,3000 nature reserves in the UK
- Work with Government, Councils, landowners, businesses, farmers, community groups and schools
- Carry out research so we know how things are doing

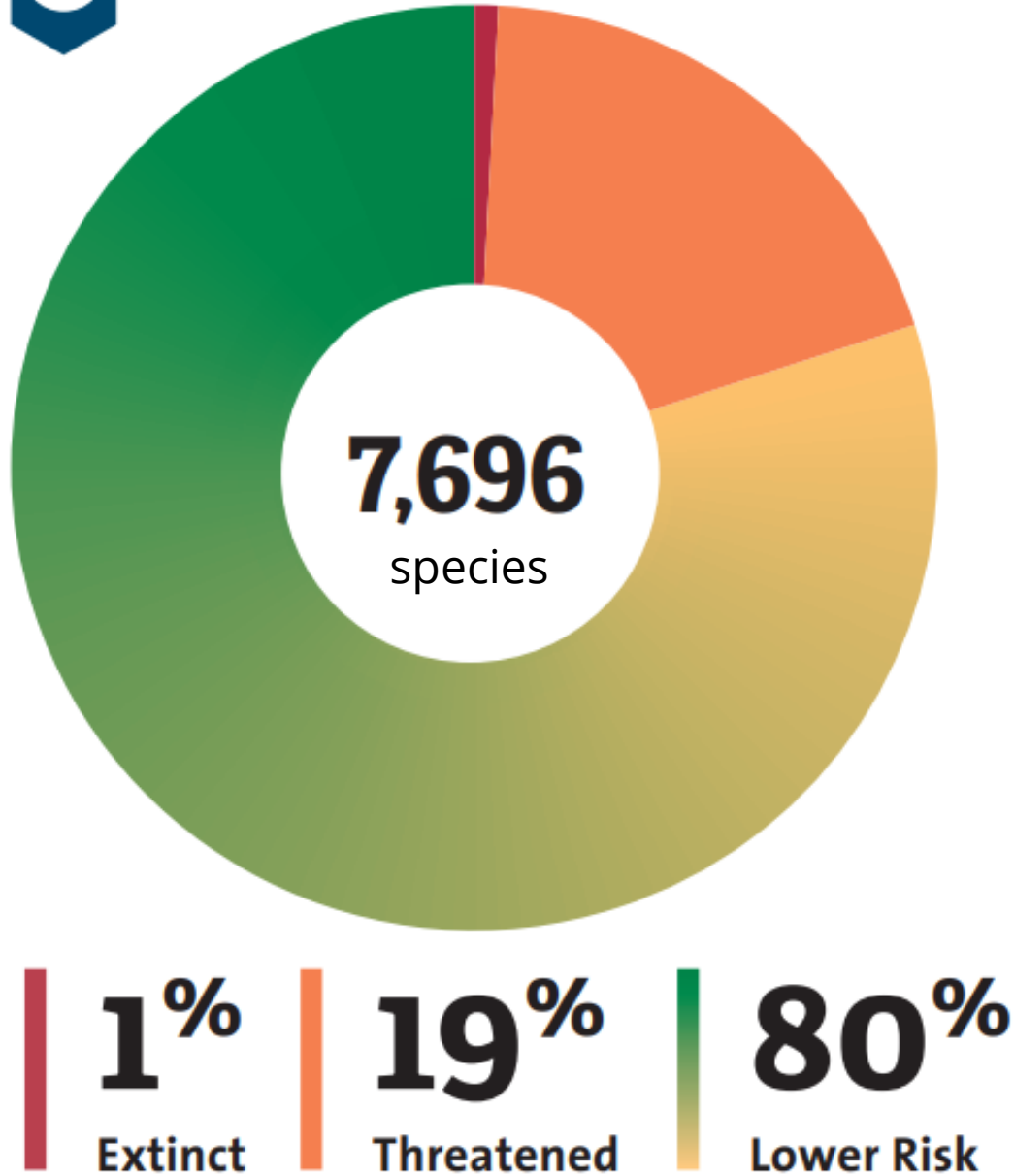




## Hertfordshire's State of Nature Report in 2020

Assessed 7,696 species

How has our wildlife changed from 1970 – 2020?



## Findings

**Hertfordshire in the last 50 years:**

20% species assessed now extinct or threatened - 1,524 species

1% extinct - 76 species

# What is causing nature to decline?

## Climate change



## Loss of habitat



**93% heathland in Herts lost since WW2**  
**50% of local ponds have been lost**



# What do all creatures need to survive?

**S - Shelter**

**W- Water**

**A - Air**

**F - Food**



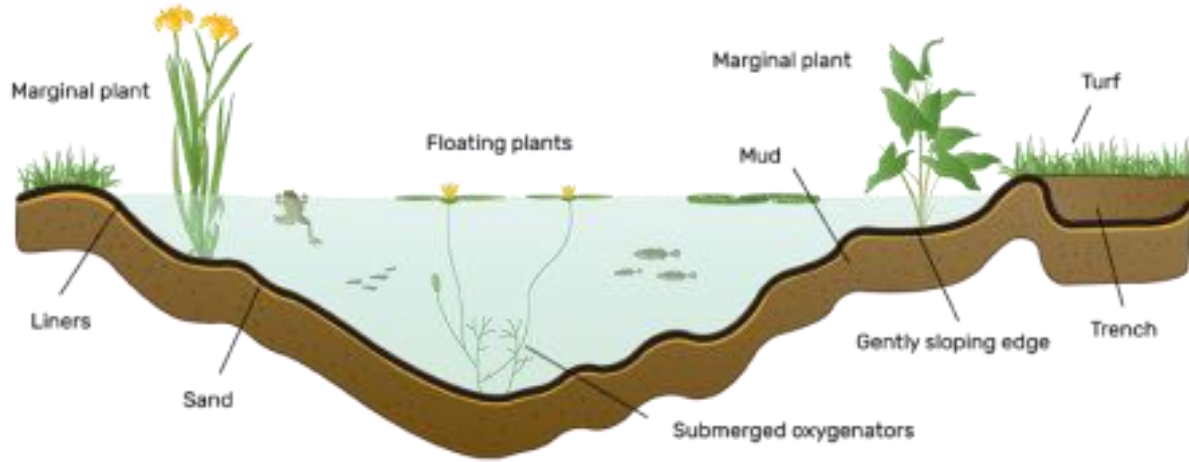
# What can I do?



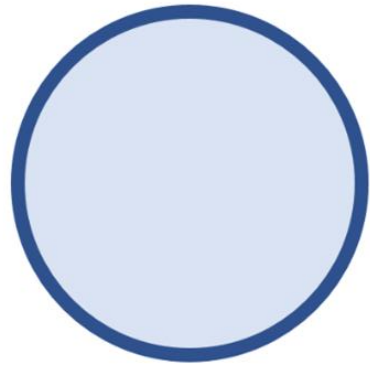
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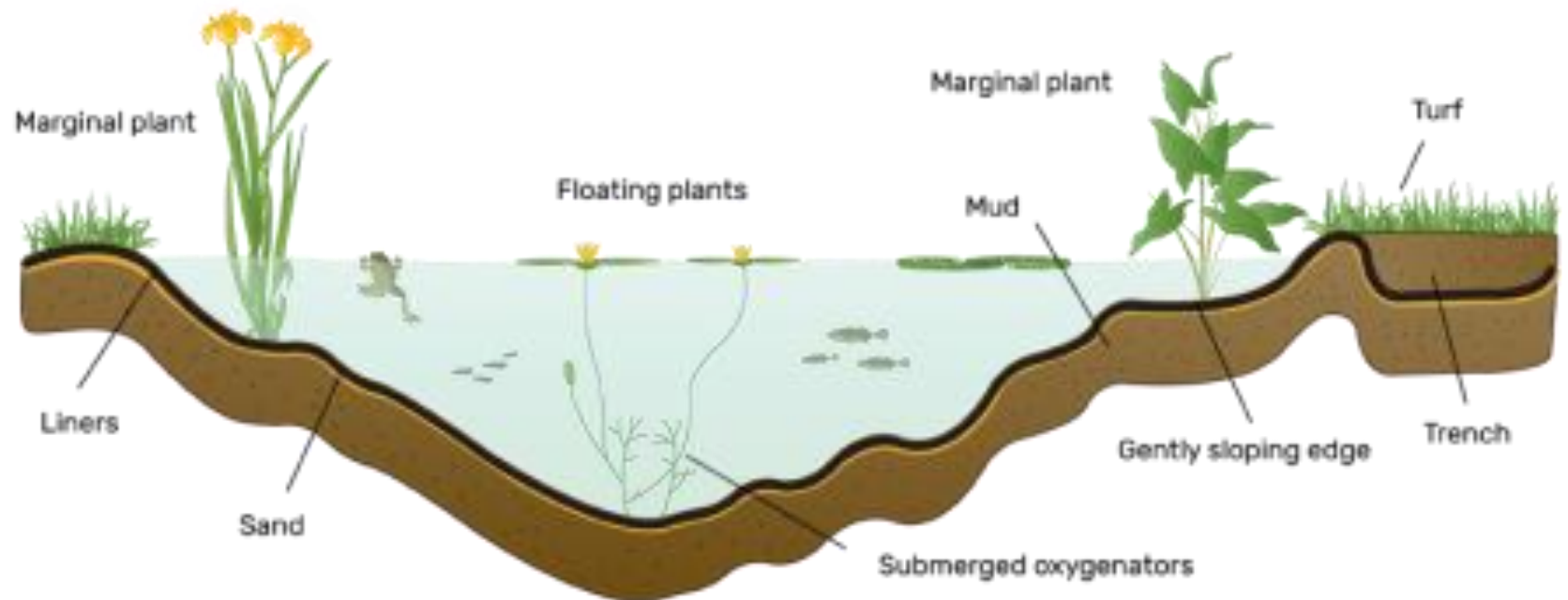
# Add a pond

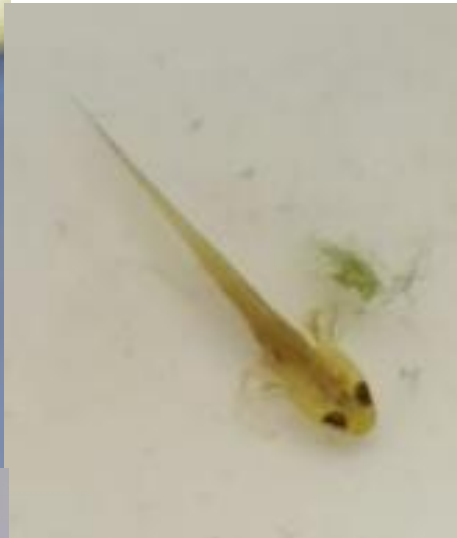


# How to make a pond great for wildlife



- Submerged – Hornwort, Water Starwort
- Floating leaved – Frogbit, Amphibious Bistort, (Water Lily)
- Taller emergent – Iris, Water Mint
- Wet marginal...





# What can I do?

Pollen



Nectar



**Choose plants with...**

Seeds



Berries



# Grow a bee and butterfly garden

wildlife  
watch



Herts &  
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Provide for bees and butterflies all year round by planting shrubs and plants that flower at different times.

## Spring



Primrose



Garlic mustard



Sweet rocket



Aubretia



Honesty

## Summer



Buddleia



Honeysuckle



Lavender



Red valerian



Hebe

## Autumn



Ivy



Hyssop



Ice plant



Sweet  
scabious



Michaelmas  
daisy

[www.wildlifewatch.org.uk](http://www.wildlifewatch.org.uk)

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# What can I do?



# Saving water for wildlife



Creating a wilder Hertfordshire and Middlesex

# Popular drought tolerant plants

- Agapanthus
- Birds-foot trefoil
- Buddleja
- Catmint
- Cornflour
- Euphorbia
- Evening primrose
- Foxglove
- Globe thistle
- Hollyhock
- Knapweeds
- Lavender
- Lemonbalm
- Marjoram
- Penstemon
- Phacelia
- Poppy
- Red valerian
- Rock rose
- Rosemary
- Sage
- Sea holy
- Sedum
- Sempervivum
- Sorrel
- Thrift
- Thyme
- Toadflax
- Tree mallow
- Verbascum
- Verbena
- Viper's bugloss
- Wild basil
- Yarrow



## Key

1. Create 'hedgehog highways' in your fences to connect your gardens.
2. Provide an escape route out of ponds – hogs are great swimmers but they struggle to climb out.
3. Create a variety of habitats e.g. ponds, hedges, log piles and compost heaps to attract food for the hedgehog.
4. Build a hedgehog home – give them somewhere to hunker down for the winter.
5. Let your grass grow wild (or even a section of it) to encourage the hedgehog's prey. Check carefully before mowing or strimming areas.
6. Create nesting opportunities – leave wild areas for hogs to hibernate.
7. Set up a feeding station offering hedgehog food or meaty pet food and water.
8. Tidy up – litter harms wildlife, and hedgehogs can also become entangled in garden netting.
9. Keep domestic drains covered, hedgehogs can fall into them and get stuck.
10. Check bonfires before lighting; ideally rebuild them on the day it is to be lit.
11. Keep your gardens green – paving and decking over gardens reduces hedgehog habitat.

# Working together

Take these small steps to welcome hedgehogs into your neighbourhood.



**Herts & Middlesex**  
Wildlife Trust

# Pledge a pond



Mark Hamblin/2020VISION

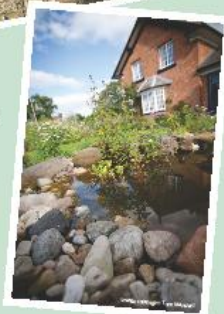
## Pledge a pond for wildlife!

Adding water, especially a pond, is one of the best ways of bringing more wildlife into our gardens, schools and community spaces.



No matter how big or small a pond can be a great addition and make a big difference!

Add your pledge or register your existing pond by scanning the QR code, we'll send you helpful resources guide you when creating or enhancing your pond.



Creating a wilder Hertfordshire and Middlesex



Scan the QR code to download our wildlife gardening booklets.



# Thank you for listening Any Questions?

Become a member – £3.50/month  
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