



# Biodiversity Partnership

## Nature matters in Guernsey

Our natural environment contributes in so many ways: it is vital for food production; it protects us from floods and storms; provides our beaches and coast; and supports our health and wellbeing. These 'ecosystem services' contributed at least £21 million in 2023 to our economy through industries such as agriculture, fishing and tourism, which rely on a healthy natural environment <sup>(1)</sup>.

83% of visitors to Guernsey stated that it was the natural beauty and our beaches that attracted them to Guernsey. 78% visited sites of natural beauty during their stay. When asked "What was the most enjoyable aspect of your trip?", the most common answer was the natural environment <sup>(2)</sup>. Guernsey's tourism

industry is estimated to contribute around 2% directly, and over 4% indirectly, to our economy <sup>(3)</sup>.

What these numbers don't show are the cost savings that a healthy natural environment provides. The cost to replicate the services the natural environment provides us, such as pollination and flood control, are significant.

### Nature is declining in Guernsey

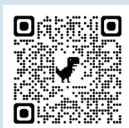
Where we do have data, species and habitats are declining:

- Guernsey's wading birds and seabirds have declined
- Guernsey's natural habitats on land have declined overall since 1990, including many of our most biodiverse and species-rich habitats
- Guernsey's most biodiverse habitat on land, 'unimproved grassland' is now extinct locally
- Species-rich hedgerows have declined by 52% <sup>(4)</sup>
- Many of our surviving species have been assessed as globally threatened with extinction <sup>(5)</sup>.


### We know the reasons why:

- Climate change
- Invasive Non-Native Species
- Development and Land Use Change
- Pollution
- Commercial and Recreational Fishing and Harvesting
- Land Management
- Gaps in knowledge and understanding.

Some of these pressures are global, but all are directly relevant to Guernsey. For more information, Visit State of Nature 2024.







## Environmental governance is important

Guernsey needs to invest in and maintain our natural assets if we want to benefit into the future from the ecosystem services those assets provide. As an election candidate, it is important for you to understand the role you could play in shaping policies to safeguard our island's natural heritage for future generations. Ensuring that environmental laws, policies, and plans are robust, supported, funded, and enforced is an important aspect of environmental governance. Guernsey does not currently have wildlife legislation, and as such, existing tools are fundamental to ensure that Guernsey's natural environment is maintained.

The States of Guernsey has already implemented several policies and strategies, and become a member to several international conventions, that pave the way for local environmental protection. Ongoing support for the implementation of and alliance to these is a key government approach to help maintain, protect, and enhance our natural environment. Additionally, where strategies and policies are reviewed, support for stronger provisions to be included for native biodiversity will be essential to ensure the ecosystem services that the community and the economy rely on are maintained.

Examples of such strategies, policies and conventions include the Strategy for Nature <sup>(6)</sup>, the Climate Change Policy <sup>(7)</sup>, and the Convention on Biological Diversity (which the States of Guernsey requested an extension of the UK's membership to Guernsey earlier this year).



**Biodiversity  
Partnership**

## Contact Us

The Biodiversity Partnership Group is made up of representatives from Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) which hold a mandated interest in the conservation of local wildlife and habitat, as well as qualified experts in conservation, ecology, and land management. We act as an advisory panel on the delivery and direction of the States of Guernsey Strategy for Nature <sup>(6)</sup>. If you would like to find out more, please get in touch.

<sup>(1)–(7)</sup> For our evidence-base, visit: [www.naturecommission.gg/candidate-leaflet-2025](http://www.naturecommission.gg/candidate-leaflet-2025)