



Health, Education and Wellbeing

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What do we see? (what is the problem?)



- Lack of access
- Impact on human well-being
- Impact on the wider natural world





"Fewer than a quarter of children regularly use their local 'patch of nature', compared to over half of all adults when they were children".

Natural England (2009) Childhood and Nature: a survey on changing relationships with nature across generations





"Children spend so little time outdoors that they are unfamiliar with some of our commonest wild creatures. According to a 2008 National Trust survey, one in three could not identify a magpie; half could not tell the difference between a bee and a wasp; yet nine out of ten could recognise a Dalek."

National Trust (2008) Wildlife alien to indoor children





"In a single generation since the 1970s, children's 'radius of activity' – the area around their home where they are allowed to roam unsupervised – has declined by almost 90%. In 1971, 80% of seven- and eight-year-olds walked to school, often alone or with their friends, whereas two decades later fewer than 10% did so – almost all accompanied by their parents."

Hillman, M., Adams, J., and Whitelegg, J. One False Move: A Study of Children's Independent Mobility. London: Policy Studies Institute, 1990.





"There is evidence to suggest that this sedentary, indoor lifestyle is having profound consequences for our children's health, especially with regard to what has been called the 'modern epidemic' of obesity: Around three in ten children in England aged between two and 15 are currently either overweight or obese. The proportion classified as obese increased dramatically from 1995 to 2008: rising from 11% to almost 17% in boys, and from 12% to 15% in girls. If current trends continue, by 2050 more than half of all adults and a quarter of all children will be obese."

Health Survey for England 2008: Physical Activity and Fitness – Volume 1





‘This study confirms that the environment provides an important health service.’

(What is the Best Dose of Nature and Green Exercise for Improving Mental Health? A Multi-Study Analysis, University of Essex)



- The population of farmland birds halved between 1966 and 2010
- 100,000 km of hedges disappeared between 1980 and 1994
- There are between double and quadruple the amount of worms on organic farms as on conventional arable farms
- Over half of all 24 species of British bumble bees are considered at risk
- 72% of UK butterflies have declined in last ten years
- Coppiced woodland fell by 90% between 1900 to 1970
- Greater horseshoe bats are at 10% of their level 100 years ago





- 70 billion farm animals are produced worldwide ever year. Two thirds of them are factory farmed
- They consume 1/3 of the world's cereal harvest, 90% of its soya meal, and up to 30% of the global fish catch





What is the way forward?

1. We must imbibe a renewed set of values
2. We must live and model it ourselves
3. We must fight for it
4. We must pray for it





‘The challenge for humanity is to find humility and overcome duality and disconnection with nature. Nature is not just out there, we are nature too. Natal, nativity, native and nature all come from the same root. The word nature means: whatever is born and will die. Since we, humans, are also born and will die we are nature too. Thus nature and humans are one. Therefore we need to understand that what we do to nature we do to ourselves. We are all related; we live in an interdependent world’

(Satish Kumar)





‘The environment is part of the economy and needs to be properly integrated into it so that growth opportunities will not be missed’

(Dieter Helm, Chair, Natural Capital Committee,
The State of Natural Capital: Restoring Our Assets,
March 2014)





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