



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

The 25 Year Environment Plan

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Defra

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Environment
Agency



Forestry Commission



NATURAL
ENGLAND

What's the ambition for the environment?

- Our 25 Year Environment Plan sets out how we will improve the environment over a generation by:
 - creating richer habitats for wildlife
 - improving air and water quality
 - curbing plastic in the world's oceans
- This 'Environmental Improvement Plan' is underpinned by 10 clear goals and a developing set of metrics and indicators.



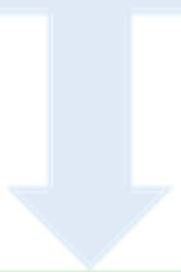
Our 25-year goals

We will achieve:

- Clean air
- Clean and plentiful water
- Thriving plants and wildlife
- Reduced risk of harm from environmental hazards such as flooding and drought
- Using resources from nature more sustainably and efficiently
- Enhanced beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment

We will manage pressures on the environment by:

- Mitigating and adapting to climate change
- Minimising waste
- Managing exposure to chemicals
- Enhancing biosecurity



Our policies will focus on:

- Using and managing land sustainably
- Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes
- Connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing
- Increasing resource efficiency, and reducing pollution and waste
- Securing clean, productive and biologically diverse seas and oceans
- Protecting and improving the global environment

25 YEP policy commitments

- The 25 YEP made ambitious policy commitments:
 - Meet targets to reduce emissions of five damaging air pollutants, to halve the effects of air pollution on health by 2030
 - Restore 75% of our terrestrial and freshwater protected sites to favourable condition
 - Create or restore 500,000 hectares of wildlife-rich habitat outside the protected site network
 - Increase woodland cover in England to 12% by 2060
 - Double resource productivity by 2050, and eliminate avoidable plastic waste by 2042
 - Sustainably manage all England's soil by 2030
 - Improve at least three quarters of our waters to be as close to their natural state as practicable

Policy progress since 25 YEP publication



It is framed around our ambition to leave the environment in a better state than we inherited it

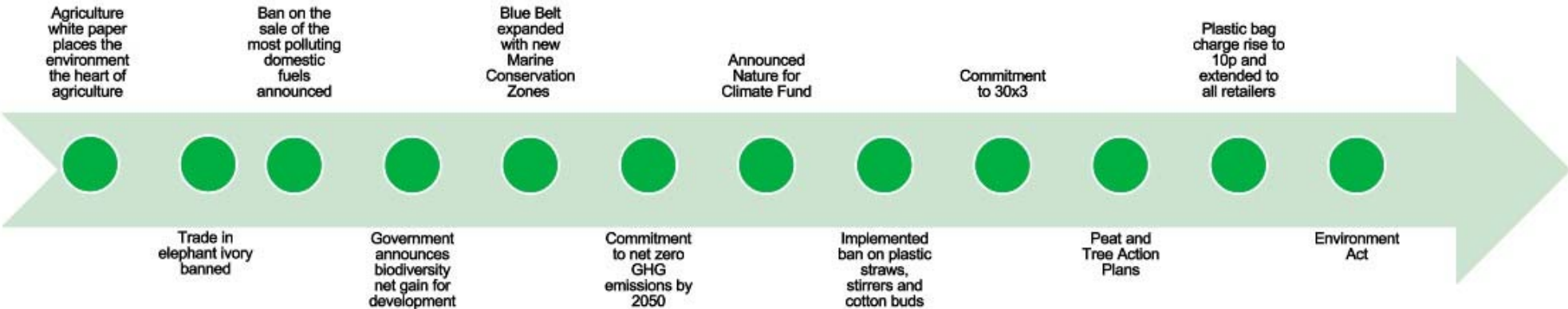


It is the first time the UK has planned for its natural environment over the long-term



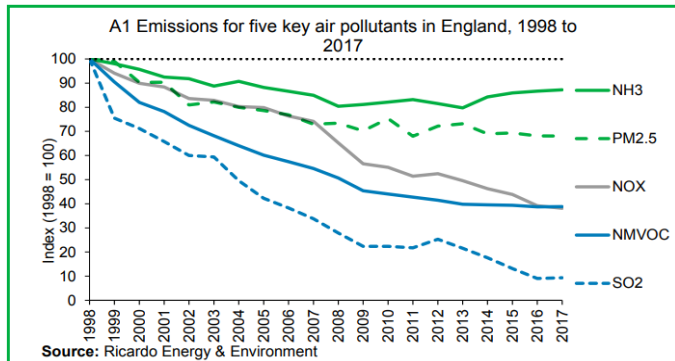
It is a plan for the whole of government, not just Defra

Since publication, we've continued to take positive steps to protect and enhance the natural environment

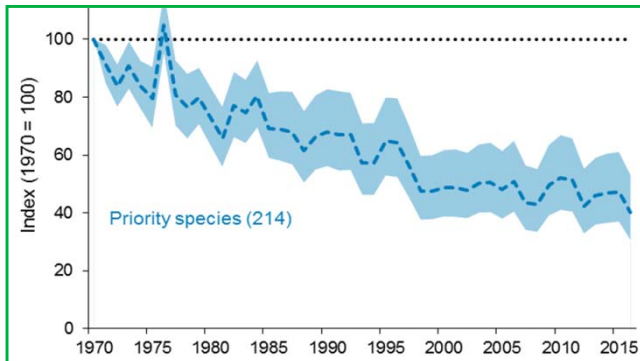


State of the natural environment

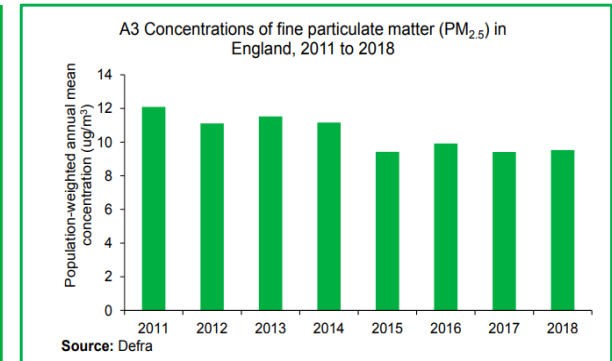
Environmental metrics across key areas are either flat or worsening, showing the need for urgent action.



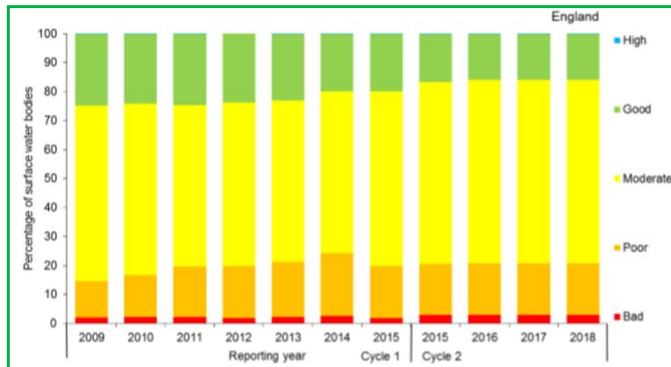
Emissions for key air pollutants: NH3 has increased, other emissions such as PM2.5 and NMVOCs have levelled off



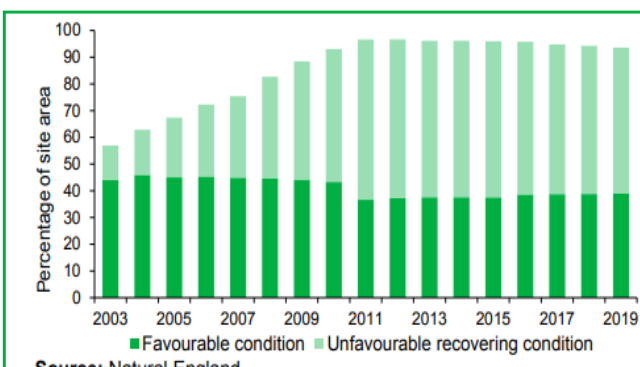
Abundance of priority species: Decline



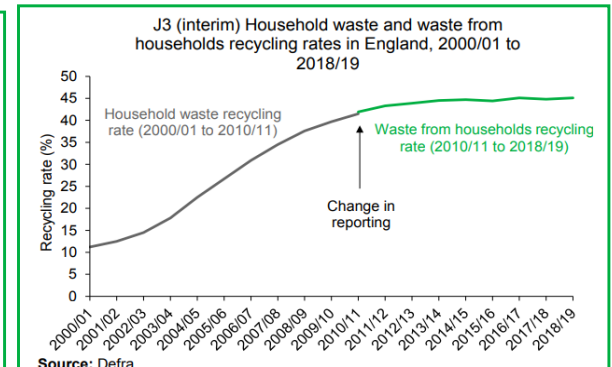
Air quality – PM_{2.5}: Flat



Surface water bodies: Only 16% good status last 4 years



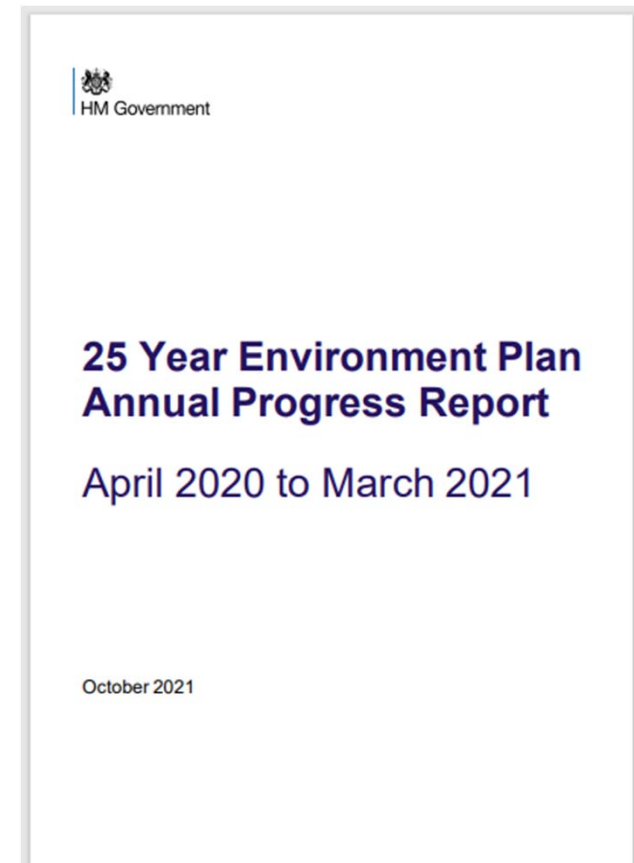
SSSIs in a 'favourable' condition: Little change



Household waste recycling: Flat

Progress on 25 YEP objectives so far

- 2020-21 Annual Report – Government's third report on the 25 YEP
- Progress assessed through Outcome Indicator Framework – data for 45/66 indicators now available
- Online dashboard available for first time: www.oifdata.defra.gov.uk
- The scale of action is huge and requires long term concerted action
- Progress is being made in some areas, but not all indicators are heading in the right direction
- Notable improvements in: NO2 concentrations, bathing waters, fish stocks, recycling rates, increase in volunteer time in the natural environment



Legislative frameworks

- First major economy to set **Net Zero** target
- Under the **Agriculture Act 2020** farmers and land managers in England will be rewarded with public money for environmental outcomes.
 - Environmental Land Management schemes
 - Food Security
- The **Fisheries Act 2020** helps support a thriving and sustainable fishing industry
 - A 'Climate Change Objective' will recognise and combat the impacts of fishing
 - New powers to develop Fisheries Management Plans to restore fish stocks
- The **Environment Act 2021**
 - puts 25 YEP on a statutory footing - range of measures to deliver 25 YEP
 - legally binding targets including target to halt the decline in species by 2030
 - strengthened system of governance including the Office for Environmental Protection and environment principles
 - Range of measures to tackle air quality, water, resources and waste, improve and restore nature



Environmental targets

What are they?

- Government will **set long-term, legally-binding environmental targets** - complementing delivery of **25 Year Environment Plan** and tackling serious challenges
- **Environment Act 2021** requires us to set at least one long term target each in four priority areas:
 - **air quality, biodiversity, water, and resource efficiency / waste reduction.**
- Plus additional legally-binding targets:
 - on annual mean concentrations of fine particulate matter (PM2.5)
 - to halt species decline by 2030
- We will consult on proposed targets in the coming weeks and bring forward Statutory Instruments by 31 October 2022.

What are the requirements?

At least **15**
years in
duration

Achievable

Objectively
measurable

Time-
bound

Supported by
interim targets

Environmental Improvement Plan: the review and refresh of the 25 Year Environment Plan



We must review the implementation and effectiveness of the 25YEP, and will be working across Defra and OGD on policy, analysis and stakeholder engagement.



We will develop a refreshed plan to be published by Jan 2023. It will be more delivery focused.



The refresh is an opportunity to set out the delivery plans and policy pathways, including interim targets and the Significant Improvement Test.



We will look at the cross-cutting levers including economic growth, natural capital, and skills.

The Environment Act 2021 requires the government to have an Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP) covering at least 15 years and setting out steps the government intends to take to improve the environment.

The Office for Environmental Protection (OEP)

- Established by Environment Act 2021
- **Objective:** contribute to environmental protection and improvement of natural environment
- Body set up and sponsored by Defra, but is independent
- Legally formed, board and staff in place
- The OEP will provide scrutiny and advice on the implementation of environmental law and any proposed changes. It will also monitor and report on progress against Environmental Improvement Plans and targets.
- The OEP will be able to receive and investigate complaints on alleged serious breaches of environmental law by public authorities. It will also be able to take legal action in serious cases, if necessary, as a last resort.



What's next



- Consultation on long term targets
- Implementing the Environment Act
- Convention on Biological Diversity COP15
- OEP response to 2020-21 25 YEP Annual Report
- 2021-22 Annual Report – the first on a statutory footing
- Long term targets deadline of October 2022
- 25 YEP becomes the first Environmental Improvement Plan – reviewed and revised to include interim targets by Jan 2023, plus
- Significant Improvement Test in January 2023



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Thank you!

If you would like more info please get in touch

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