

The Bristol Declaration

For organisations, institutions, and communities on the UK Insect Declines Crisis

11 September 2025

We, the undersigned, representing organisations, institutions, and communities committed to the protection of biodiversity and the health of ecosystems, raise an urgent call to action in response to the alarming and ongoing decline of the United Kingdom's insect populations.

Insects underpin the ecological foundations of life, they pollinate wildflowers and crops, recycle nutrients, support soil health, naturally control pests, and provide food for birds, bats, fish, and other wildlife. They bring sound and colour to summer days, inspire art and music, and connect us to the natural world while significantly contributing to the economy. Yet, mounting evidence, gathered through decades of monitoring, reveals dramatic declines in abundance, diversity, and distribution of many species across multiple insect groups in the UK. From beetles and bumblebees to butterflies and freshwater insects, the warning signs are clear.

The causes are well-evidenced: habitat loss and fragmentation, pesticide and chemical use, intensive agriculture, climate change, pollution, and the spread of invasive non-native species. These pressures, acting cumulatively, have pushed many insect species toward extinction thresholds and threaten the resilience of the healthy ecosystems we depend upon for clean water, fertile soil, and food security.

We affirm that reversing insect decline is essential, not optional, for halting nature loss and achieving the UK's climate and biodiversity goals. We urge governments, businesses, land managers, and society to act on the evidence and commit to restore insect-friendly habitats at scale and reduce activities that harm insects - through conservation programmes, sustainable practices and policy change.

The UK must become a world leader in insect recovery. We call for a national, cross-sector response equal to the scale of the crisis, grounded in scientific evidence and public accountability. We invite organisations across the UK and beyond to endorse this declaration and help forge a future where insects thrive.

Signatories

Craig Macadam,
Co-Leader & Conservation
Director,
On behalf of **Buglife**

Julie Williams,
Chief Executive,
On behalf of **Butterfly
Conservation**

Gill Perkins,
Chief Executive Officer,
On behalf of **Bumblebee
Conservation Trust**

Andy Lester, Head of Conservation, On behalf of **A Rocha**

Colin Hart, President, On behalf of the **Amateur Entomologists' Society**

Jim Foster, Conservation Director, On behalf of **Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust**

Dr Emily Smith, Head of Environment, On behalf of **Angling Trust**

Steve Backshall, Naturalist, broadcaster, author, and Buglife Ambassador

Nigel Palmer, Chief Executive, On behalf of **Badger Trust**

Kit Stoner, Chief Executive, On behalf of **Bat Conservation Trust**

Keiron Brown, Senior Naturalist, the **Biological Recording Company**

Bill Parker, President, On behalf of the **British Arachnological Society**

Diane Drinkwater, Chair, On behalf of **British Beekeepers Association**

Nicholas Wadham, Managing Director, On behalf of **Bugfest Ltd**

Gillian Burke, Natural history broadcaster and Buglife Ambassador

Freddie Ingleby, Managing Director, On behalf of **Caledonian Climate**

Dr Rose O'Neill, Chief Executive Officer, **Campaign for National Parks**

Dr Kirsten Pullen, Chief Conservation Officer, On behalf of **Chester Zoo**

Jason Reeves, Head of Policy, On behalf of **CIEEM**

Liam Olds, Founder, On behalf of **Colliery Spoil Biodiversity Initiative**

Dr Beulah Garner, Chairperson, On behalf of the **Coleopterist Society of Britain and Ireland**

Dr Mya-Rose Craig, Environmental activist, and author, Founder and President Black2Nature

Richie Miller, Director, On behalf of **The Deveron, Bogie & Isla Rivers Charitable Trust & River Deveron District Salmon Fishery Board**

Emma Montlake, Joint Executive Director, On behalf of the **Environmental Law Foundation**

Simon Taylor, President, On behalf of **Essex Field Club**

Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall, Chef, writer, broadcaster and environmental campaigner

Dr Alan Wells, Chief Executive Officer, On behalf of **Fisheries Management Scotland**

Olivia Nelson, Manager, Partnerships and Advocacy, On behalf of the **Floodplain Meadows Partnership**

Simon Johnson, Executive Director, On behalf of the **Freshwater Biological Association**

Jeremy Biggs, Chief Executive Officer, On behalf of **Freshwater Habitats Trust**

Paul de Zylva, Senior Analyst, On behalf of **Friends of the Earth**

Maya Gabrielle Leonard, Author and Buglife Ambassador

Professor Dave Goulson, Professor of Biology, author, and Founder of The Bumblebee Conservation Trust

Dr Douglas Parr, Chief Scientist and Policy Director, On behalf of **Greenpeace UK**

Philip Reynolds, Coordinator, On behalf of **Keep Our Rural Spaces**

Dr George McGavin, Entomologist and author

Ruth Larbey, Head of Policy and Advocacy, On behalf of **National Landscapes Association**

Phil Long, Chief Executive, On behalf of **National Trust for Scotland**

Martin Lines, Chief Executive Officer, On behalf of the **Nature Friendly Farming Network**

Alan Drever, Chair, On behalf of **Nature Foundation**

Brian Shaw, Director, On behalf of **Ness District Salmon Fishery Board**

Max Bryant, Chief Executive Officer, On behalf of **Northern Ireland Environment Link**

Chris Packham, Broadcaster and environmental campaigner

Josie Cohen, Interim Director, On behalf of **PAN UK**

Nicola Hutchinson, Director of Conservation/Deputy Chief Executive, On behalf of **Plantlife**

Louise Lavictoire, Co-chair, On behalf of the **Riverfly Partnership**

Martin Janes, Managing Director, On behalf of the **River Restoration Centre**

Beccy Speight, Chief Executive Officer, On behalf of the **RSPB**

Dan Yates, Director of Policy and Public Affairs, On behalf of **Save Our Rivers**

Brendan Costelloe, Policy and Strategy Director, On behalf of **Soil Association**

Dominic Price, Director, On behalf of **Species Recovery Trust**

Cohn O'Dea, Chairman, On behalf of the **Tay Catchment Salmon Alliance**

Ajay Tegala, Conservationist, broadcaster, author

Zoë Simmons, President, On behalf of **The British Entomological and Natural History Society**

Kathy Wormald, Chief Executive Officer, On behalf of **The Froglife Trust**

Alan Carter, Chief Executive, On behalf of **The Land Trust**

Matt Larsen-Daw, Chief Executive Officer, On behalf of **The Mammal Society**

Dr Steve Head, Founder and Patron, On behalf of **The Wildlife Gardening Forum**

Joan Edwards OBE, Director of Policy and Public Affairs, On behalf of **The Wildlife Trusts**

Dom Ferris, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, On behalf of **Trash Free Trails**

Adrian Spalding, Chairman, On behalf of **Trelusback Foundation for Wildlife Conservation**

Philip Reynolds, Chairman, On behalf of **Upper Dearne Valley Environmental Trust**

Richard Benwell, Chief Executive Officer, On behalf of **Wildlife and Countryside Link**

Shaun Leonard, Director, On behalf of the **Wild Trout Trust**

Tom Fewins, Head of Policy and Advocacy, On behalf of **Wildfowl and Wetland Trust**

Iolo Williams, Naturalist, television presenter, conservationist and author

Dr Andy Millard, Executive Committee Chairman, On behalf of **Yorkshire Naturalists' Union**