

## Urban

Much urban habitat has to meet the needs of multiple users, this makes it more difficult to manage for maximum biodiversity benefit. The biodiversity of urban areas can be overlooked. Such areas are subject to development pressure, this can reduce the area for biodiversity but can also provide opportunities for provision of biodiversity in the built environment.

There can be other problems with domestic animals such as cats, littering and fly-tipping, disturbance from increased use of footpaths and inappropriate lighting. Pollution may also have a detrimental impact.

Isolation and fragmentation of areas of wildlife habitat can occur. Particular problems with health and safety concerns, for example with street trees may be detrimental.

There may be many biodiversity rich habitats in urban areas.

Built Environment can provide important roost and nest sites for priority species such as bats and scarcer birds like swifts, peregrines and black redstart.

Parks are quite heavily managed but can be a first point of contact between people and wildlife. They may also be home to ancient or veteran trees.

Brownfield sites (previously developed land) are areas where a number of species can make surprisingly good use of this type of habitat, for example, willow tits and invertebrates.

Allotments can play a significant role in providing habitat for many species, for example slow worms. They can also provide a source of food for many pollinators.

Churchyards may have ancient or veteran trees, they may also have untended areas where wildlife can flourish.

Gardens/Green space are now regarded as making an increasingly important contribution to biodiversity. Though containing mostly non native species of plant they provide food for many pollinators and habitat for nesting birds and for small mammals such as hedgehogs. It is another good point of contact for people with wildlife.

Playing fields/school grounds can have hidden biodiversity importance with grassland edges, trees, hedges and shrubs providing habitat for birds, invertebrates and other wildlife.

Street trees and other trees play an important role in the urban area providing roost, nesting and food for birds. They can be important for pollinating and other insects, fungi and lichen. They also reduce the 'heat island' effect, ameliorate air pollution and help to soak up surface runoff.

There are no specific protections for the urban environment.